

Dalwood Parish Appraisal and Plan



Dalwood residents' views on local issues

September 2009

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The Parish of Dalwood: Community Voice in 2007/8

1. Introduction

1.1 Objectives

In mid 2006, a volunteer steering committee embarked upon a project to obtain a better understanding of the make-up of the Parish of Dalwood and the views that prevail among its residents relating to a series of issues, from the environment we are fortunate enough to live in, to issues of housing, transport and amenities.

Supported by the Parish Council, the specific objectives of the project were as follows:

- ❖ To establish the priorities for action that would enhance the quality of life within the Parish.
- ❖ To make recommendations for an action plan that would achieve the stated goals and needs
- ❖ To support those *within* the boundary that make decisions on behalf of the Parish, in making known to them the views of the Parish.
- ❖ To set out ways in which the Appraisal can be used to influence decisions that impact on the Parish made by organisations and individuals *beyond* the boundary.

To achieve these objectives, the specific information needs from the project were as follows:

- ❖ To obtain the views of the population on life in the Parish, and how it might be improved. The survey covers issues such as housing, the environment, transport, roads, recreation and leisure, village facilities and infrastructure.
- ❖ To consider what the population considers is fundamental to their enjoyment of life in the Parish – what it considers most critical to protect.
- ❖ To understand how the population believes the Parish should develop in the future.

The steering committee comprised a mixed group of villagers bringing a range of skills and interests to the project. Details of the team are provided in Appendix A.

The initiative is supported by Dalwood Parish Council, which has contributed to the costs of the project. Further funding was received from the Community Council of Devon and the Blackdown Hills Partnership.

This document presents the findings of the Parish Survey. It is available to anyone who requests a copy. From this document, The Appraisal Committee and the Parish Council are working together to produce a set of recommendations, guidelines and plans for the parish. The initial outcome of this work is incorporated in this document.

1.2 Process

Some while ago an Open Day was held in the Village Hall to ascertain the enthusiasm in the Parish for an Appraisal, and the message from the 120+ visitors on the day was a strong endorsement of the process. A good deal of qualitative feedback was provided on that day, some of which is now incorporated into this document; it helped to shape the questionnaire.

In September 2006 a self completion questionnaire was distributed by hand to every dwelling in the Parish, and to some beyond the Parish as well. The rationale for this was that through geographic and social circumstance, some outlying areas in neighbouring parishes tend to gravitate towards Dalwood rather than their own villages – Ham and Heathstock are good examples of this, both of which are in Stockland Parish, but lie much closer to Dalwood than to Stockland. Similarly, some of those living around Morcox Cross gravitate towards Wilmington.

We are therefore able to broadly divide the area covered into three regions:

- ❖ Dwellings that lie within the envelope of Dalwood village (24% of returns)
- ❖ Dwellings that lie within the Parish, but outside the village envelope (the largest number) (62% of returns)
- ❖ Dwellings that lie beyond the borders of Dalwood Parish (15% of returns)

We asked that all residents of a dwelling aged 11 and over contribute to the survey.

Respondent confidentiality was assured. All completed questionnaires were picked up by the collectors, but in a sealed envelope. These went, unopened, to an independent data processing house. Data fed back to the Project Team did not identify individual responses.

We are pleased to say that more than 70% of all households, and 75% of all residents over the age of eleven that we targeted responded to the survey.

52% of our respondents are female, 48% male. The spectrum of ages responding to the survey broadly reflects the age profile of the community, detailed in the report, of course without the contribution of youngest group. Overall the views of older people are slightly more strongly represented than those of younger people, proportional to the age analysis of the community.

This is a picture of Dalwood at a specific time in its history. In the twenty-first century, populations of any community can change relatively quickly, and Dalwood is not alone in seeing periods when house sale activity has been high, the population changing accordingly, while at other times the population has been more stable.

1.3 Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

Each section in this Appraisal leads with a summary of the key conclusions, a translation of the numerical results and the open comment supplied both at the Open Day and in response to the survey.

Some of the recommendations may be considered short term objectives, others more appropriate to medium or long term outcomes. Some – a small number – stand out as absolutely key to the wishes of the Community and these are marked on the summary below as “priority issues”.

Some of the conclusions and recommendations are fundamental to the character of this Parish, others consider details that will benefit smaller groups but are nonetheless important. The overall objective of maintaining the precious character of this part of East Devon underlies the report.

The table below summarises how the authors have interpreted the results and places each recommendation into context:

Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

		Highest Priority (Strongest Collective View)	Short / Medium / Long term objective
Leisure	Strong demand for outside recreational / play area	✓	Medium
	Ensuring the future of Dalwood Fair by securing suitable location	✓	Medium
	Use of alternative venues for activities (other than Village Hall)		Short
Travel and Transport	Awareness and use of local travel (bus) services		Short
	Low recognition of other travel services		Short
	Periodic high levels of road parking in the village		Medium
	Traffic speed approaching Carters Cross from the Methodist Church		Medium
	Improved parking arrangements at the Primary School	✓	Short
Village Shop	Maintaining the Village Shop, highly valued in the community		Long
	Desired extension to products on offer		Short
	Awareness of Shop facilities		Short
Housing	Widespread resistance to significant increases in housing stock	✓	Long
	Recognised need for limited new development particularly to accommodate families and young locals	✓	Long
Council	Awareness of Parish Council Meetings and activities		Short
	General lack of awareness of Community issues		Short

1.4 Ownership of Objectives

As the formal leaders of this Community, the Appraisal team firmly believes that initiation and coordination of activities arising from this Appraisal is managed by the Parish Council. However, we recognise that Councillors alone already devote their time to the Community (as do many others).

It is also fair to say that everything cannot be done at once.

We therefore recommend that the Parish Council undertakes the following on acceptance of this Appraisal and Plan:

1. Selects three recommendations as priority projects
2. Invites / encourages Parishioners to join working groups to tackle each one
3. Ensures that at least one Councillor is involved in each group
4. Agrees with each Group a programme of work to meet the objective, covering further issue definition, the development of possible solutions, a workplan to move the project forward and timescales for reporting progress and bringing the project to a suitable conclusion.

The Project Groups must then take responsibility for their work.

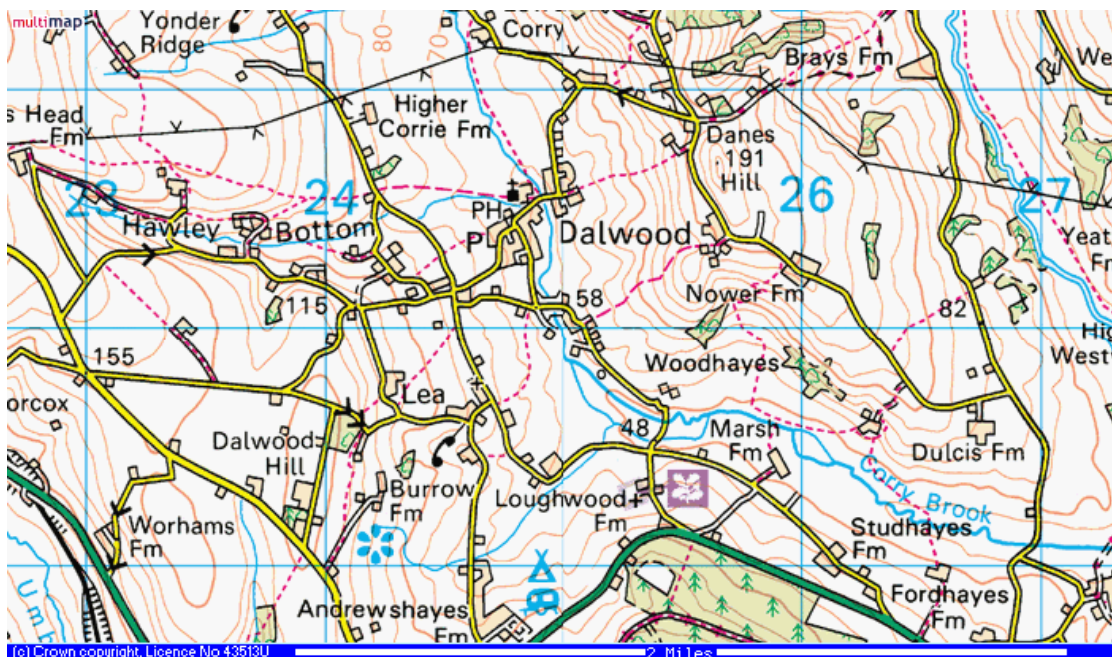
2. ABOUT THE PARISH OF DALWOOD

The Parish of Dalwood lies approximately midway between the market towns of Axminster and Honiton in the council district of East Devon. It is very rural, the predominant activities being dairy and sheep farming. The Parish lies within the southern boundary of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The East Devon District Council East Devon Local Plan (2003) describes Dalwood thus:

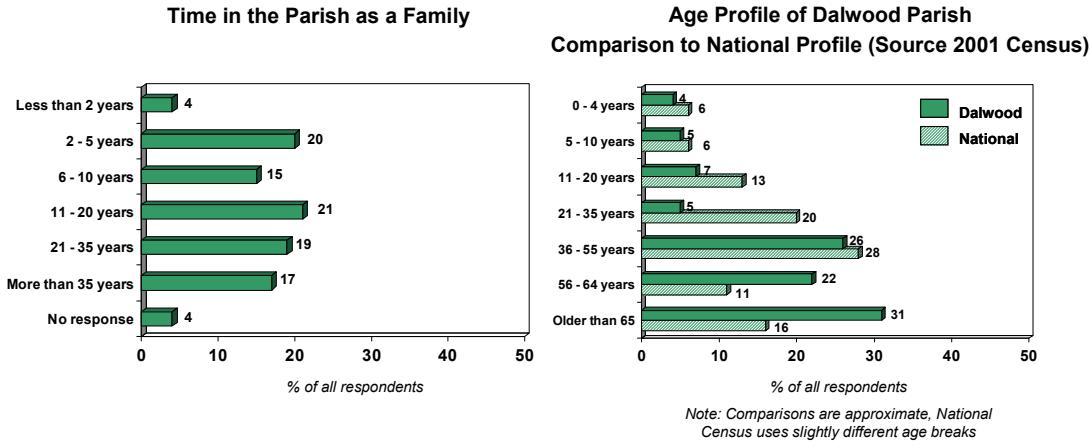
Dalwood is located entirely within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty approximately 12.8 km (8 miles) due east of Honiton. Its built form is a mixture of old and new characterised by a number of modern residences either side of the road that runs through the village and a historic core. This historic core is formed by the church, adjacent cottages and the public house on the opposite side of the road. To the east of these buildings runs Corry Brook which provides an attractive green corridor through the heart of the village greatly enhancing the settlement's rural character. It is for this reason that Corry Brook and surrounding land has been designated as Land of Local Amenity Importance.

Ordnance Survey Map of Dalwood and Environs



3. A PROFILE OF THE PARISH

3.1 The People of the parish



The population of the parish is relatively stable, with well over half of the respondents having been living there for ten years or more. In the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of younger people moving into the parish, though it is not possible to say statistically who they have replaced.

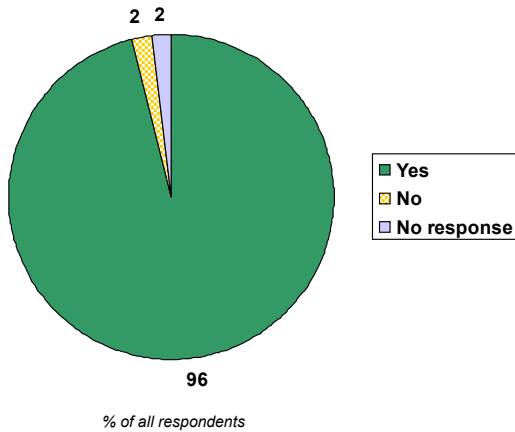
It is clear that there is a far greater proportion of people over 55 in the parish compared with the national average. Conversely, the numbers of those between 21 and 35 are substantially below the average. The survey does not contain enough variety of data to supply conclusive reasons as to why this is, but it would be reasonable to suppose that local job opportunities, the cost and possibility of commuting, and the availability of suitable and affordable housing are strong contributory factors.

Where respondents indicated they have been in the parish for ten years or less, we asked from where they had moved. 53% of this 62 households had moved into the south west from (mainly) elsewhere in the UK, or in a small number of cases from overseas. The 33 households this represents is one in five of all households that responded to the survey, a rate of approximately 3 new households from outside the region in the each of the last ten years; this probably represents a high proportion of the houses that have come up for sale in that time, and has implications on the character of the community going forward. 37% had moved into Dalwood from elsewhere in Devon.

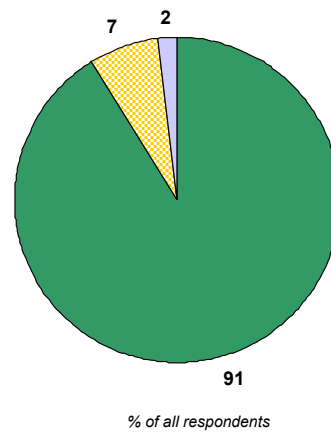
3.2 Where People Live

Overwhelmingly, properties in the Parish are their occupants' main place of residence, and owned by them. Dalwood has not yet suffered from the "holiday home problem" that has compromised the quality of life for residents in many picturesque villages in the UK.

Dwelling is Main Place of Residence?



Dwelling is Owned by You?



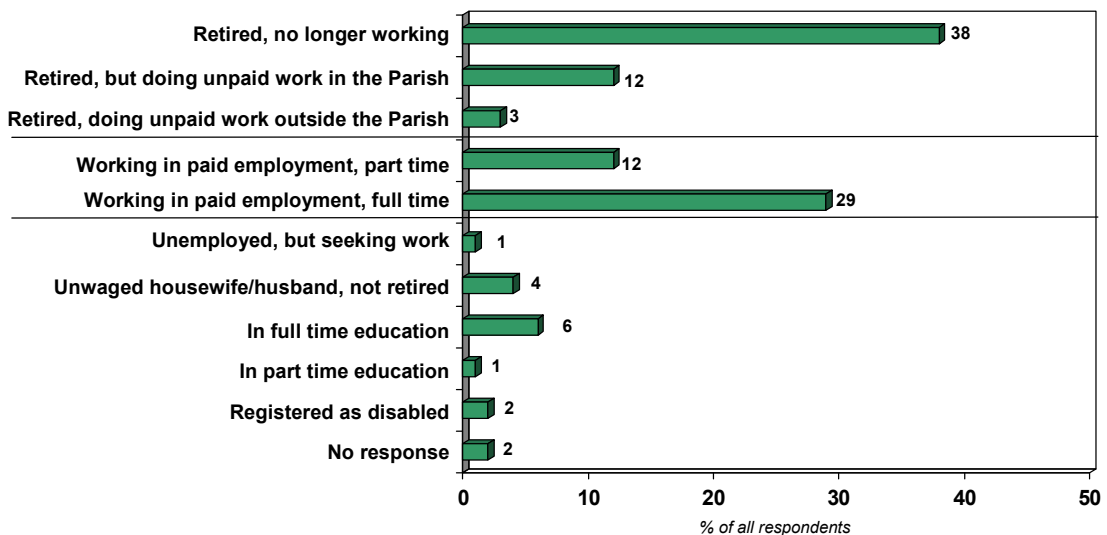
Average household size is small, a quarter of the 167 households that returned questionnaires indicating they are one person households, a further half indicating they are two person households. Only one in five are households of three or more.

3.3 Work and Education

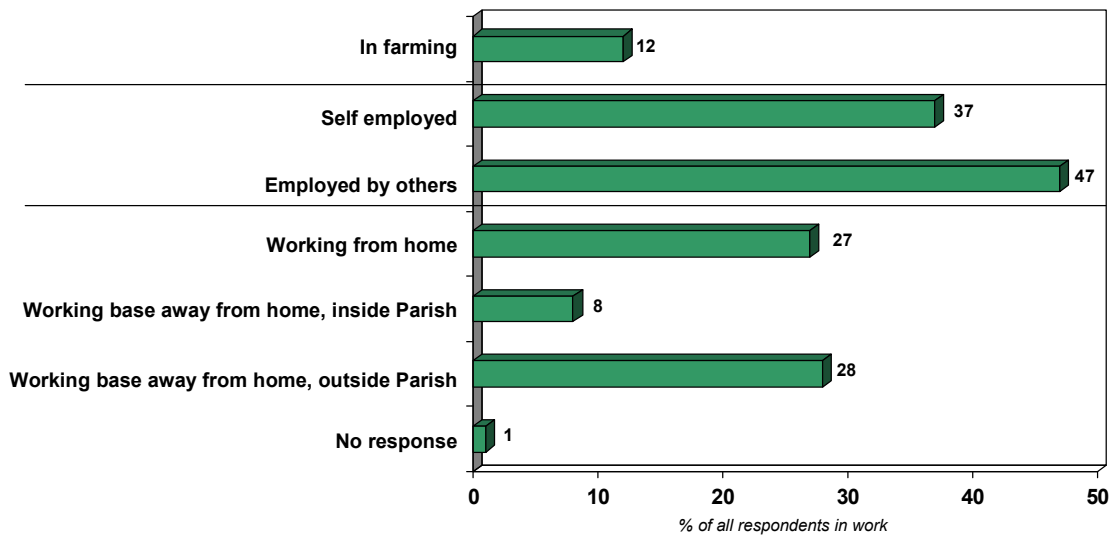
Dalwood has traditionally been a mixed farming community, but we see today that very few are directly involved in farming. The majority of the population is retired, though almost a third of these people choose to work unpaid in various roles both within and outside the parish.

41% - two in five - are working part time or full time. Of these, a significant proportion is self employed (UK census?) and more than a quarter work from home.

Work and Education Status of Dalwood Parish Residents



Work Status of Those Employed in Full Time or Part Time Work



At the time of the survey, respondents reported two residents who were housebound, nine who had special needs and thirteen that were registered disabled. 24 respondents indicated they had caring responsibility for others, either at home or away from home.

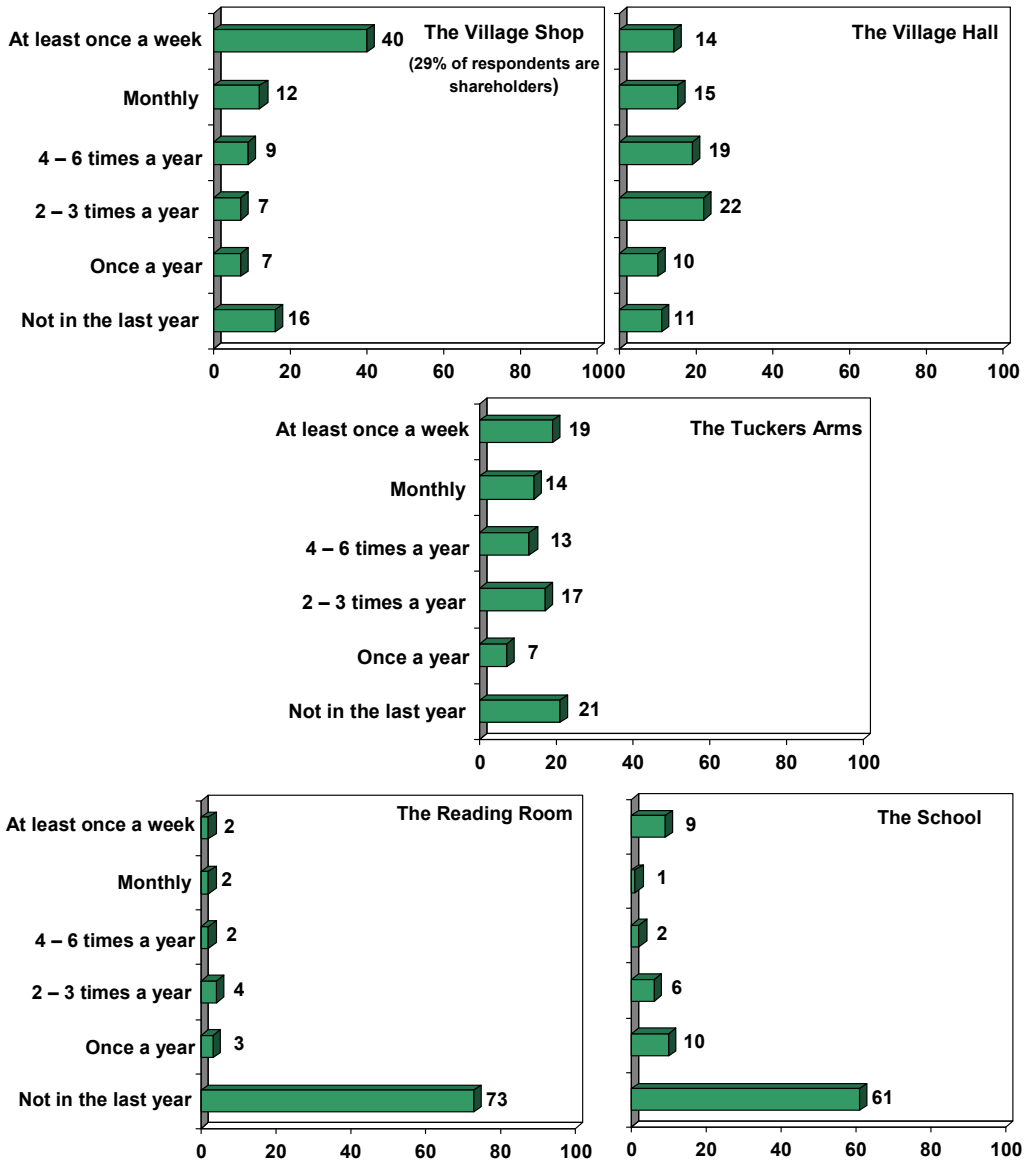
3.4 Frequency of Visits to Local Facilities

The following charts highlight the frequency of use of various village facilities. Some highlights from this analysis are:

- ❖ More than half of respondents use the village shop at least once a month, four out of every ten visit it at least once a week.
- ❖ 30% of respondents are using the Village Hall at least once a month, 71% visit at least two – three times a year.
- ❖ 70% visit the Tuckers Arms at some time through the year.

All three can therefore be deemed to be vital components of the village. However, the Reading Room and the school are used by only a very small proportion of the parish – making it possible to view them as underused resources.

Use of Village Facilities: Percent of Respondents



4. ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY

Conclusions and Recommendations

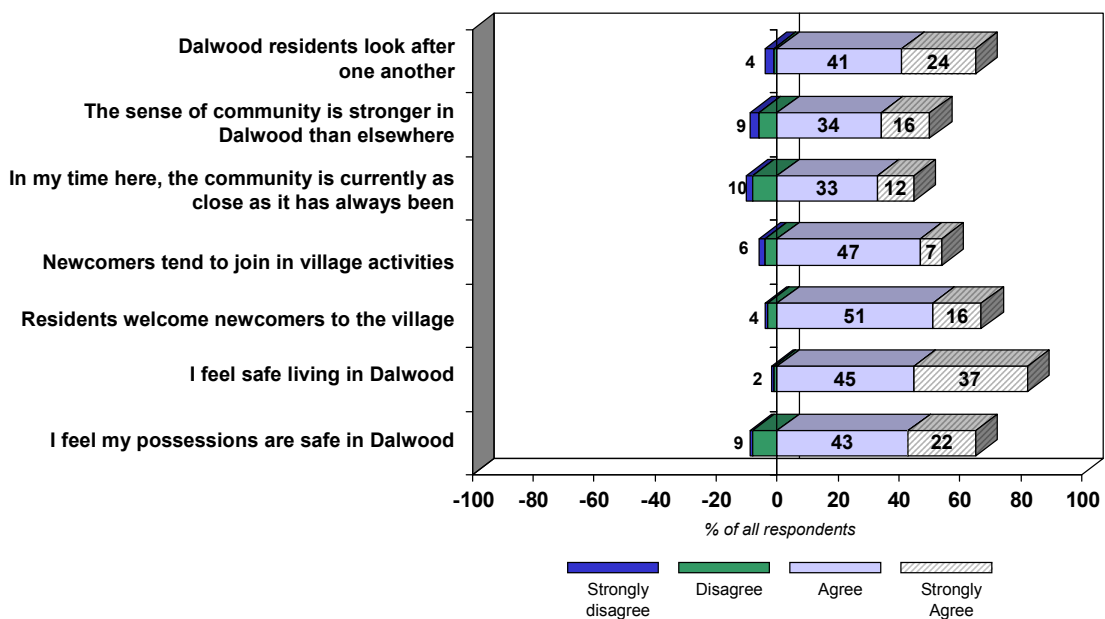
Our main emphasis in this section of the report is on environmental issues:

Issue	Solution & Actions	Partners
Poor state of roads and lanes in the Parish	Recognition that road maintenance involves both ongoing (pothole) repairs and resurfacing programmes. Parish Council to be aware of Highways Committee accepted standards and prepare own detailed assessment of the Parish. Build relationships within local authorities to promote Parish needs. The community to be encouraged to report concerns through the Parish Council.	Parish Council Devon CC Highways Maintenance
Varied condition of verges, ditches and hedges	Identification of "hot spots". Clarification on ownership / responsibility. Development of action plan to ensure future good health, case by case.	Parish Council liaising with Devon CC
Further expansion of the recycling collection service (geographic coverage and extension to plastics)	Liaison with recycling authorities. Develop awareness of other recycling points in the area.	Parish Council EDDC Devon CC

Outcomes

In Dalwood, there is pride in the quality of the community. There is very widespread belief that the community is welcoming, is safe, and is inclusive in terms of newcomers getting involved.

Attitudes Towards the Community in Dalwood



However, the table below shows that the community is considered to be better at catering for some age groups than others. There is most concern about how well we cater for eleven to twenty four year olds, and in contrast almost no-one considers we are poor at catering for the needs of those forty – five and over.

Effectiveness of Catering For Different Age Groups in the Village

Age Group	Very Poorly	Quite Poorly	Neither/Nor	Quite Well	Very Well
Up to 10	2	12	44	34	8
11 – 17	16	21	43	17	2
18 – 24	21	19	50	7	2
25 – 44	1	11	55	29	4
45 – 64	0	2	32	53	13
65 and over	0	1	28	44	27

% of respondents expressing a view (70- 80% of all respondents)

There is also deep appreciation for the environment in which we live together with the quality of the surrounding countryside and of the village but there is also a strong appreciation of the community and the people who live in the parish. We asked each respondent to name the most important things that make it appealing to live in Dalwood. Responses focussed on five key areas. Not surprisingly, these reflect what it is Dalwood residents would most seek to protect:

Most Appealing Aspects of Living in Dalwood	
	<i>Number of votes</i>
<i>Our surroundings:</i>	
▶ “The countryside / outstanding scenery / tidy, well cared for surroundings”	122
▶ “Rural location / a farming area / relative seclusion	42
▶ “Pretty, unspoilt village”	28
▶ “Village / community size”	8
▶ “Able to walk / ride in the countryside“	11
▶ “Wildlife / birdlife”	8
▶ “Countryside protected as part of an Area of Natural Beauty”	7
▶ “Pollution free (inc. light pollution)”	6
<i>The “mood” of the community:</i>	
▶ “Quiet / tranquil / pace of life / little traffic / old fashioned values”	103
▶ “Safe and secure”	7
▶ “A good place for kids to grow up”	4
<i>Our community:</i>	
▶ “Friendliness / neighbourliness / warmth / welcoming / caring people”	120
▶ “Community spirit / willingness of many to contribute”	42
▶ “Lots going on / many activities / lots to be involved in if you want”	31
▶ “Our home / near to family / brought up here / belonging”	26
▶ “An active church”	11
<i>Convenience / ease of reaching other places (not a “backwater”)</i>	
▶ “Good access to local towns and the coast”	39
▶ “Transport links / close to major roads / rail to London / local airports”	23
▶ “Proximity to good schools”	4
▶ “Proximity to work”	3
<i>Village amenities</i>	
▶ “All necessary amenities in the village”	13
▶ “The shop / Post Office”	10
▶ “The pub”	5
▶ “The school”	4

Similarly, we asked about the things that people dislike about living in Dalwood. Many (134, or 41% of our respondents) either did not answer the question or indicated there was nothing that was sufficiently a concern to note down.

The remainder expressed a wide range of issues and opinions, and once again we have divided these into a number of broad issues. There were many more issues raised here – if the reader does not see his or her particular issue it has been absorbed into a bigger “theme” for analytical purposes. This analysis reveals many issues where different groups of residents have very different opinions.

Things People Dislike About Living in Dalwood	
	<i>Number of votes</i>
<i>Roads, hedgerows and verges:</i>	
▶ Poor state of roads and lanes	26
▶ Roads in winter are hazardous	4
▶ Poor state of hedgerows and verges	9
▶ Rivers, brooks not properly maintained	3
▶ Litter in hedgerows, verges	2
<i>Traffic and driving habits</i>	
▶ Driving too fast (especially Sunnylands to Carters Cross)	19
▶ Increasing heavy traffic / size of coaches and lorries / specific reference to Swards	16
▶ Increased traffic on local lanes	5
<i>Parking Issues</i>	
▶ Inconsiderate / lack of parking in the village centre (sometimes associated with Tuckers)	16
▶ Access to Village Hall and parking for the Hall	5
▶ Parking at the school	2
▶ Parking at the shop	1
<i>Social Issues (relates to shortcomings of residents)</i>	
▶ Aging population / more families needed	18
▶ Lack of affordable housing	15
▶ Little to do for young people	7
▶ Erosion of local farming culture	5
<i>Shortcomings of residents (relates to social issues)</i>	
▶ Newcomers wanting to change things not adapting to our way of life	17
▶ Residents failing to appreciate there has to be some change	4
▶ Dog fouling	12
▶ Cliques	6
▶ Gossip / lack of privacy	5
▶ Over use of security lighting	2
<i>Leisure Issues</i>	
▶ No open space for the village / no space for children	17
<i>Transport Issues</i>	
▶ Not enough public transport options / reliance on cars	28
▶ Distance from amenities	4

Things People Dislike About Living in Dalwood....Continued

Number of votes

Farming Practices

- ▶ Slurry, mud on roads 5
- ▶ Condition of footpaths and bridleways 5
- ▶ Neglect of some farm properties 3
- ▶ Care of farm animals 2

Noise and other environmental issues

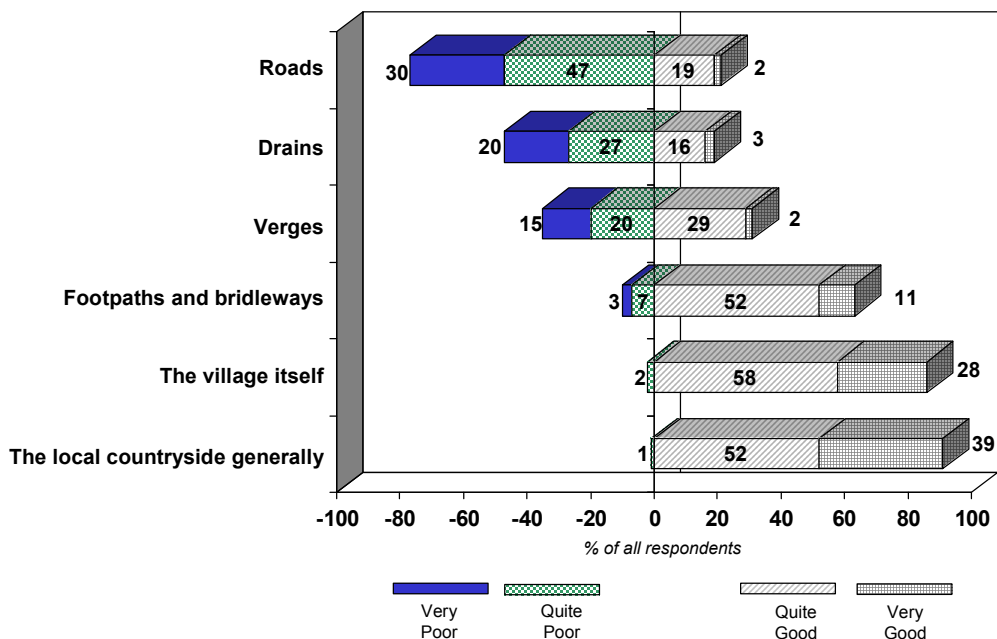
- ▶ Noise of A35 / increased traffic on A35 6
- ▶ Pylons and overhead cables 6
- ▶ General noise 6
- ▶ Threat of streetlighting 2
- ▶ Insufficient recycling facilities 1

Other

- ▶ Concerns expressed about Tuckers Arms (when under previous management) 10
- ▶ Andrewshayes expanding, too visible 4
- ▶ High council taxes for the facilities on offer 3
- ▶ No public WC 2
- ▶ Non elected councillors running affairs 2
- ▶ Too many house extensions 1
- ▶ Church bells 1
- ▶ Lack of good internet connections 1
- ▶ Low flying aircraft 1
- ▶ No mains gas 1

This picture is confirmed by respondents' judgement on the overall quality of elements of our environment. However, the infrastructure of the parish, its roads and drains in particular are widely criticised:

Attitudes Towards the Community in Dalwood: How Do You Rate the Quality of the Following?



5. ATTITUDES TOWARDS LEISURE AND ACTIVITIES IN DALWOOD

Conclusions and Recommendations

From the findings under the heading of Leisure and Activities, we propose the following actions:

Issue	Solution & Actions	Partners
Strong demand for outside recreational area/ play area	Identification of an appropriate area within the village environs; approaching owners to ascertain willingness to discuss land opportunities; cost analysis	Parish Council
Village Hall – ability to fulfil multiple functions (social, leisure, sport)	Current development planning and work recognised (usage, costings, building activity). Renewed applications for funding to be undertaken and continued local funding activities. Future expanded usage to be Explored, particularly new activities within the parish. Is there an integrated plan for the Hall for next 10 years? Consideration to forming an “events committee” for brought in entertainment. Expansion of local groups and societies	Parish Council Village Hall Committee Current users of the Hall
Use of alternative venues for activities	Proper exploration of alternative uses for the Reading Room, consultation with the school on possible out of hours use. Consultation with the Tuckers Arms. Target to open up more availability in the Village Hall	Parish Council Reading Room Committee School Governors and PTFA Tuckers Arms

Outcomes

5.1 Current Attendance of Clubs and Organised Activities

A little under half of our respondents are involved in an organised activity, though as we did not specify a period of time, or frequency of involvement, we suspect that at best for some the involvement is occasional and for others it may be historical.

The table below outlines current involvement in, and potential demand for, the various clubs and societies that are featured on the display in the Village Hall.

Involvement and Interest in Clubs and Activities in Dalwood Number of Respondents		
	Currently involved	Would like to participate
Skittles teams (Tuckers Arms)	53	10
Corrydale Singers	28	4
Women’s Institute	22	7
Reading Room	21	8
Fair Committee	20	6
Badminton Club (Adults and juniors)	16	24

Involvement and Interest in Clubs and Activities in Dalwood
Number of Respondents - Continued

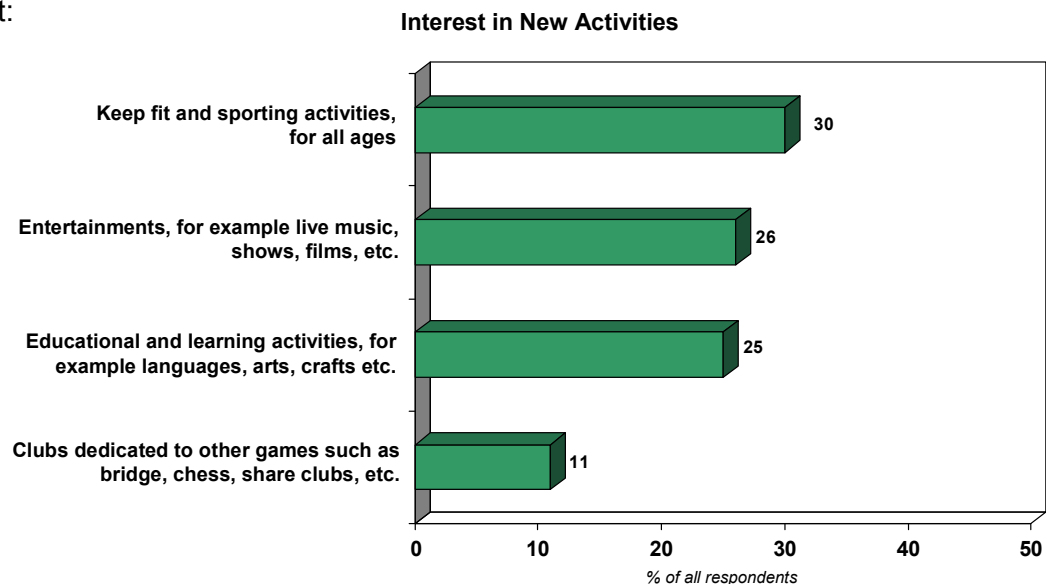
	Currently involved	Would like to participate
Raft Club	16	6
Bowls Club	15	9
Computer Club	15	14
Book Club	14	18
Youth Club	12	1
School PTFA	11	6
Art Club	9	10
Church Choir	9	3
Toddler Group (Dalwoody Woodkins)	8	3

Nb. Keep fit classes launched after questionnaire design

With some groups in the village struggling to keep going, the level of interest may come as a surprise to some readers, but of course this doesn't take into account individuals' circumstances and their ability to make regular sessions.

A lack of spare time is offered as the most widespread barrier to involvement, cited by 55% of all those answering the question; 22% indicate there is nothing of interest there; 13% say the club is the wrong age group; 10% that club hours are inconvenient. 9% indicate they were not previously aware of the activity, 6% say they have no-one to go with, 2% struggle to get to the venue.

Dalwood offers a wide range of activities, but other activities could be developed for the community. The chart below summarises the level of interest in various different types of event:



There is, therefore, a great deal of opportunity for more events in the parish, the availability of facilities such as the Village Hall permitting, but it is worth noting that the school and the reading room are apparently under-used.

Key to the success of any venture is the willingness for people to be involved in organising and running them, and 44 respondents indicated they would be prepared to get involved, a further 75 indicating they might possibly get involved.

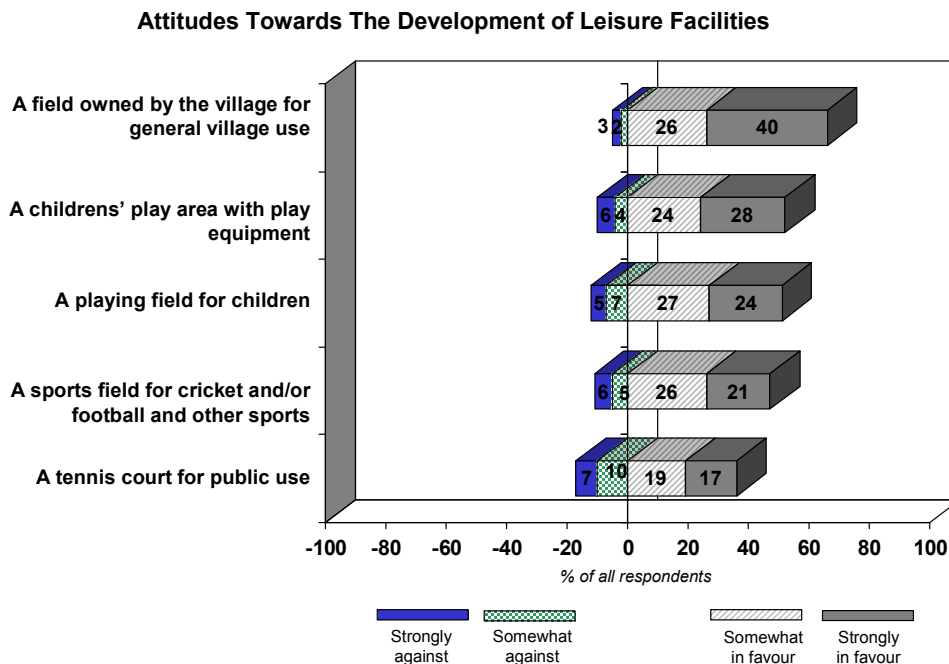
5.2 Support for Improved Leisure Facilities in the Parish

The report has already alluded to the need for better facilities in the parish for children, and the following chart sums this up very well.

Two thirds of all respondents indicate their desire for a field owned by the village – this in part relates to the Fair (currently held on private land by kind permission of the owner) and in part to the idea of an open space where people can congregate.

More than half of respondents indicate the need for an area dedicated to children, with or without play equipment.

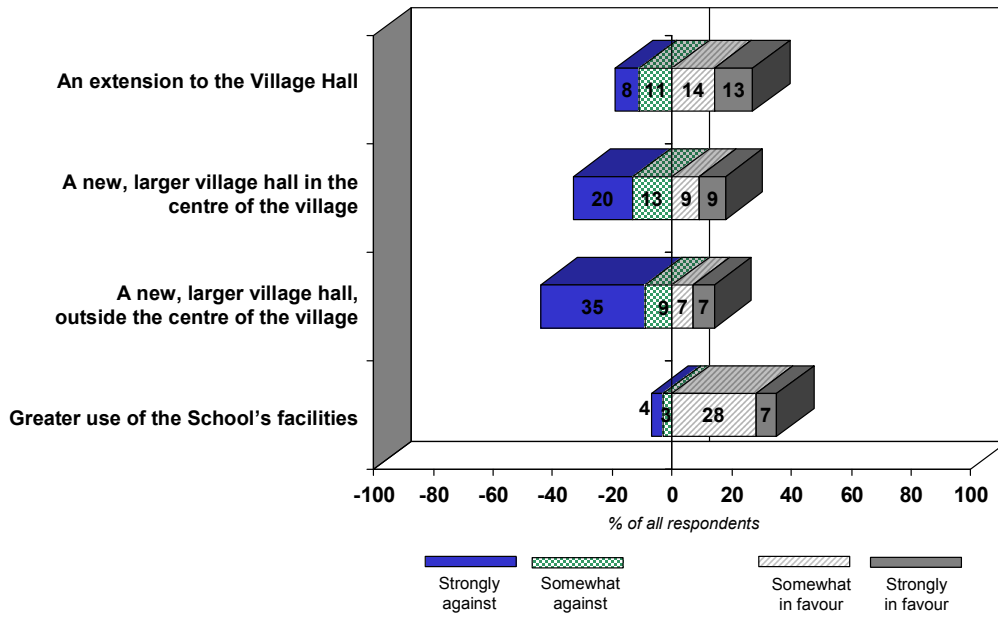
A significant minority are in favour of a field for sports activity such as cricket, or in favour of a tennis court for public use.



With regard to indoor facilities, relatively few respondents were prepared to give a view but those that did came out strongly for extending the existing village hall rather than building a new facility. This issue is already being discussed in the village.

Once again, greater use of school facilities is deemed a good idea.

Attitudes Towards The Development of Leisure Facilities



6. TRAVEL AND TRAFFIC

Conclusions and Recommendations

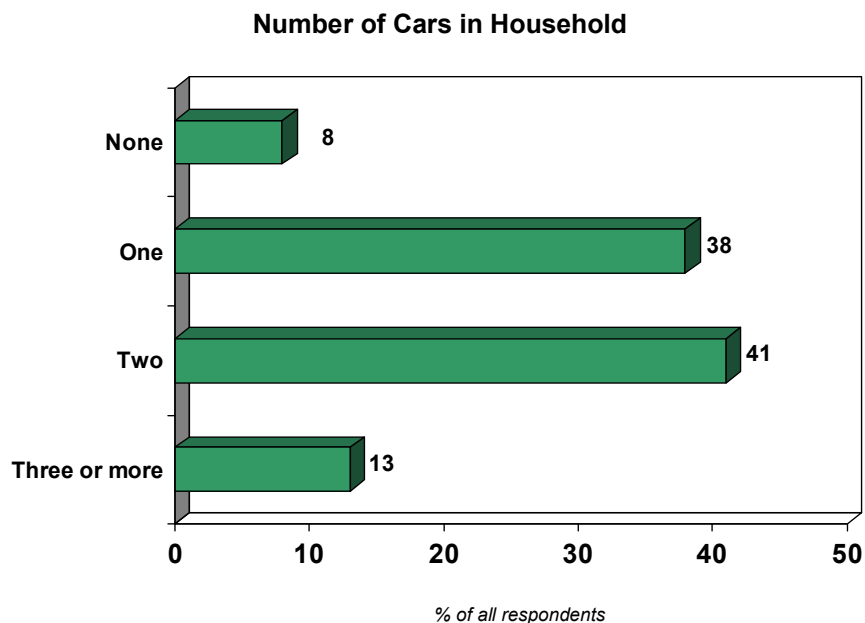
From the findings under the heading of Travel and Traffic, we propose the following actions:

Issue	Solution & Actions	Partners
Awareness and use of local travel (bus) services	Promote timetable and location of stops for local bus services, review routes and pick up points, develop strategies to encourage use, possibly including a more frequent service.	Parish Council Local bus service providers
Low recognition of other travel services	Promote details of services and how they can be used, particularly ensuring that the elderly and those in poor health are aware.	Parish Council Local bus service providers
Periodic high levels of on road parking in the village	Examination of ways to encourage single side parking through the village centre, avoiding use of street markings and excessive signage.	Parish Council (formally) Tuckers Arms (informally)
Traffic speed approaching Carters Cross from the Methodist Church	Investigation of use of a speed limit zone for the Village environs as a whole.	Parish Council Devon CC
Improved parking facilities at the Primary School	Determined effort to provide adequate parking. Consideration of offers recently made for a parking zone.	Parish Council Devon CC

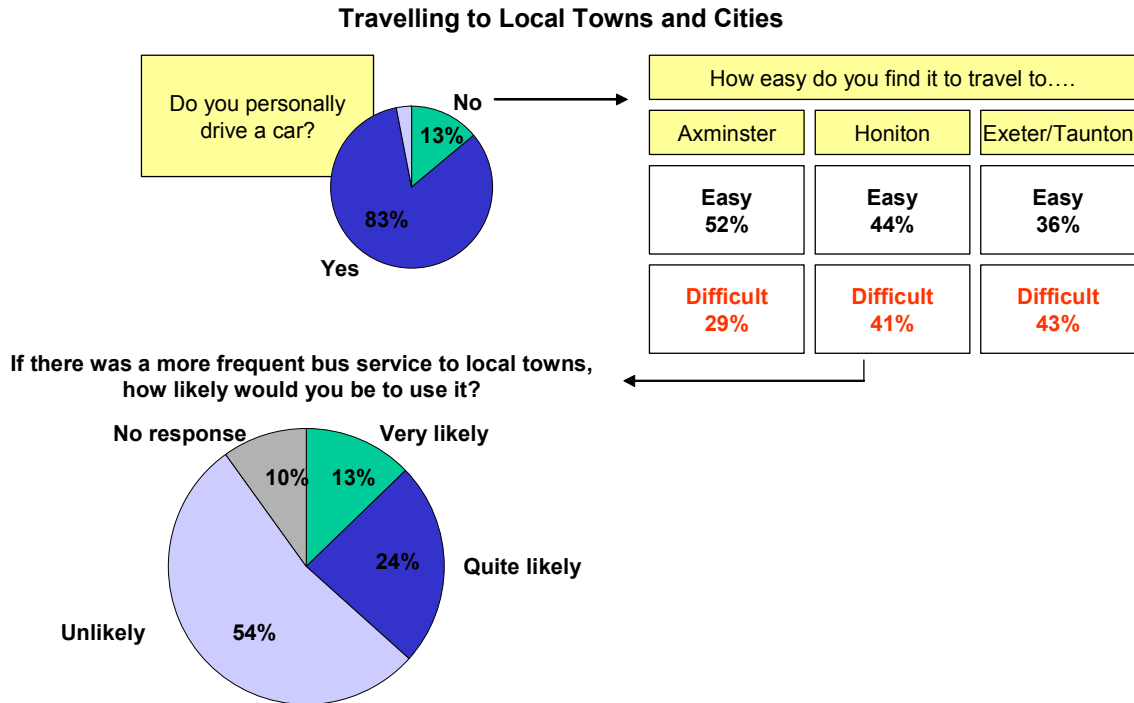
Outcomes

6.1 Travelling To and From Dalwood

Car ownership in Dalwood is relatively high, with more than half of households claiming to have at least two cars.



Thirteen percent of our respondents indicate they do not personally drive, and to this audience we addressed a series of questions relating to their attitudes towards travelling to local towns and their awareness of public transport (free and otherwise) that serves the village.



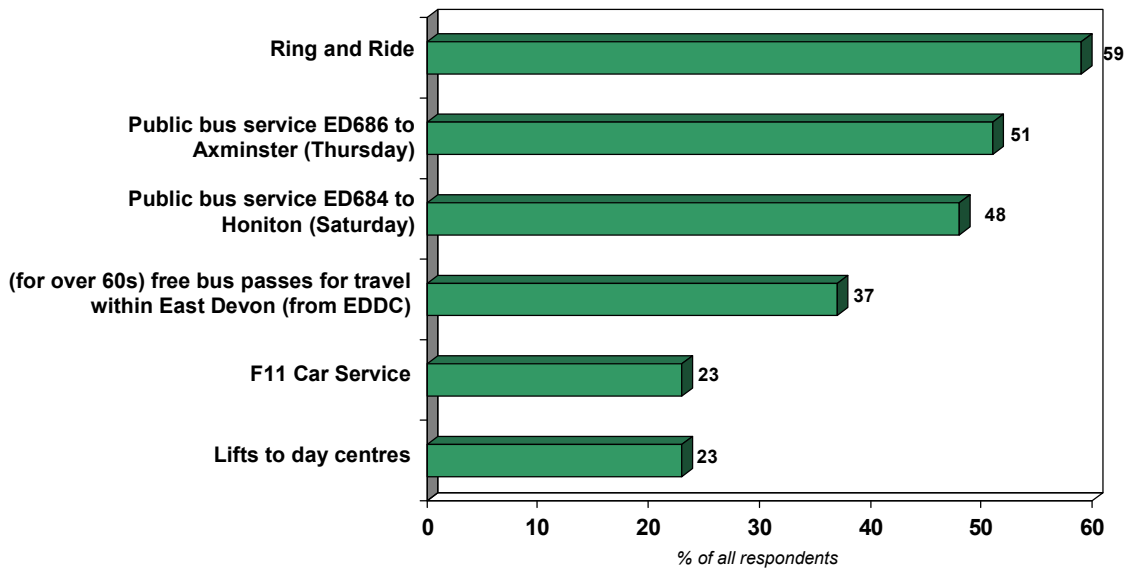
A significant minority claim they find it difficult even to travel to the local towns of Axminster and Honiton. When asked whether they would use a more frequent bus service to local towns, however, only one-third considered they would.

All respondents were asked about their awareness of local travel services; in all cases awareness is not high.

We recognise that some of the services are perhaps not relevant to some, but since both F11 and the lifts to day centres are reliant on volunteers then the level of awareness is disappointingly low.

In this environmentally aware age, perhaps higher awareness of local fare paying bus services would encourage some people out of their cars.

Awareness of Local Travel Services



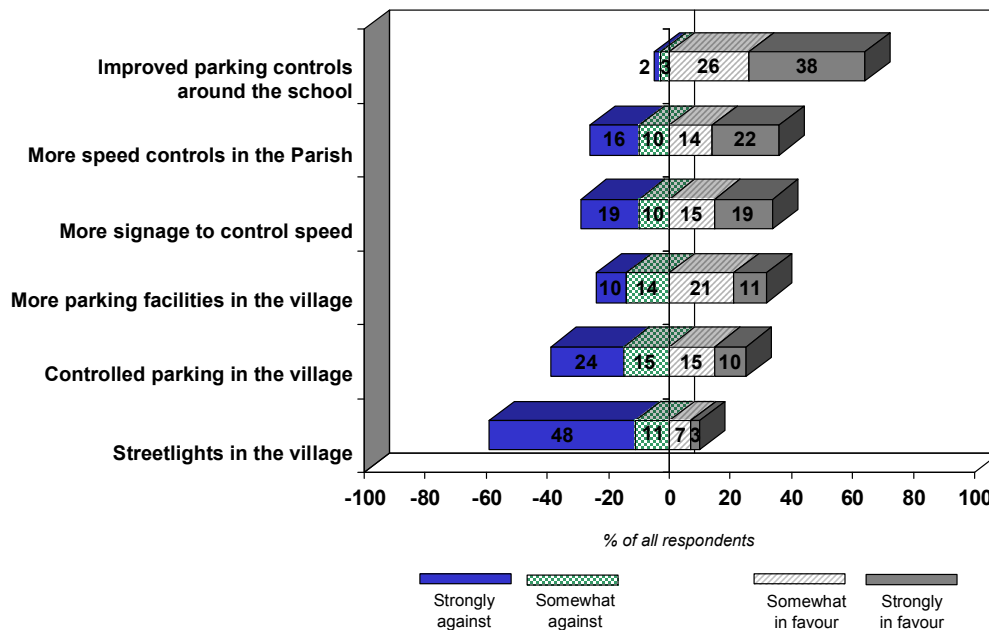
6.2 Traffic In Dalwood

As with any village, there are traffic issues in Dalwood and there are many measures that could be utilised to reduce residents' concerns, but as the chart over leaf shows some of these would not be welcomed.

Streetlights and the measures needed to control parking in the village centre are rejected by more respondents than consider them a good idea.

However, there is a small balance of opinion towards the control of vehicle speed in the parish and a strong vote for improved parking facilities around the school. Discussions on the latter are well advanced.

**Attitudes Towards Changes in Parish Developments:
Parking and Traffic Control**

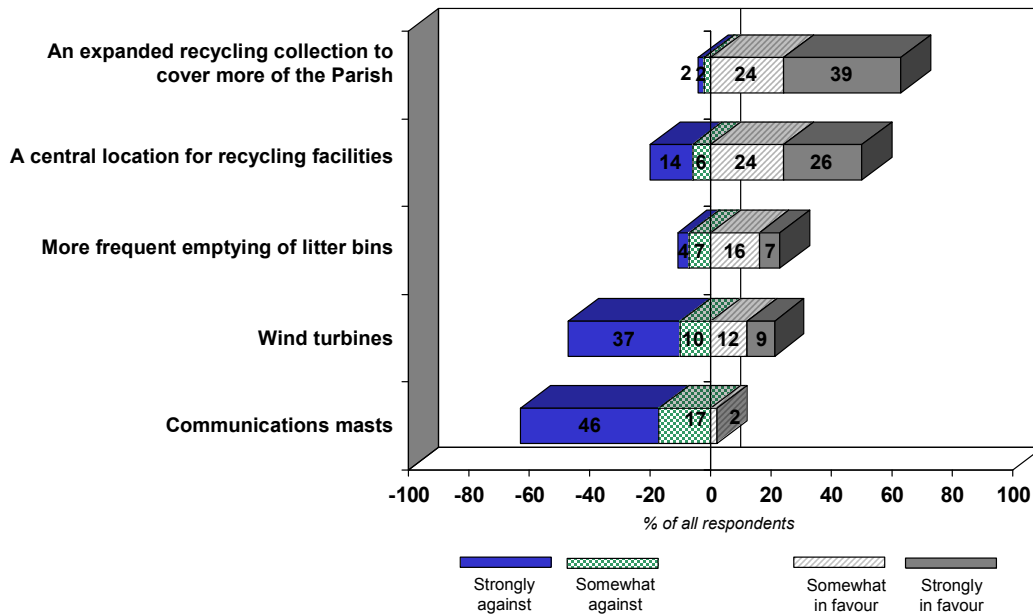


6.3 Other Potential Developments in the Parish

Many parishes are “threatened” by the potential development of communications (phone) masts and wind turbines. It comes as no surprise that a community proud of what they have environmentally should come out strongly against such developments, but this report can at least state for the record that a substantial majority of respondents hold such a view.

Conversely, there is a strong vote for improved recycling in the parish, with the balance of opinion in favour of an expanded recycling collection system – parts of the parish are not currently served by this. A central location for recycling also receives support, but not as strong as expanded collection services.

Attitudes Towards The Possibility of Other Parish Developments



7. THE VILLAGE SHOP

Conclusions and Recommendations

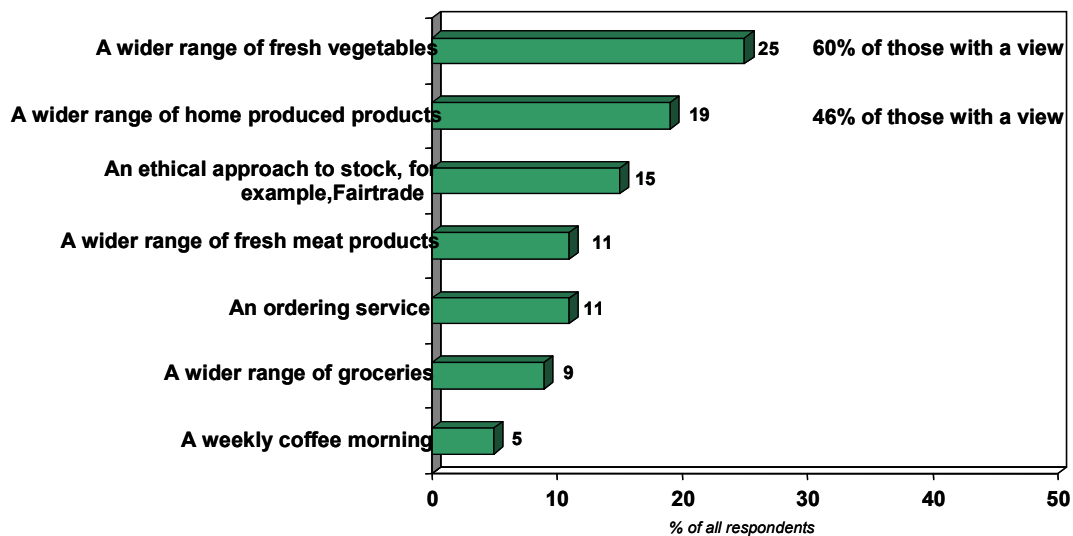
From the findings under the heading of The Village Shop, we propose the following actions:

Issue	Solution & Actions	Partners
Maintaining the Village Shop, highly valued by the community	Recognition of the time and effort put into the shop by the Committee. Development of a long term plan to ensure the viability of the Shop; Review of the efficiencies of running the shop, including staffing and other assistance if needed	Shop Committee
Desired extension of products on offer	Examination of the products and services offered to ensure the community is served to best ability, including local produce such as vegetables and home produced food	Shop Committee
Awareness of Shop facilities	Continued (increased?) promotion of the facilities available, including the Post Office	Shop Committee

Outcomes

The Village Shop is widely used, but there is still a good deal of untapped potential there. We asked respondents to indicate what might encourage their greater use of the shop. Somewhat surprisingly for an apparently treasured resource, 59% of our respondents chose not to answer this question, but those that did respond were most keen on fresh vegetables and home produced products, the fresh vegetables attracting the approval of 60% of all those who responded.

“What Would Attract You to Use the Village Shop More Often?”



Above and beyond the services suggested in the above graphic, the following suggestions were made to attract more people to the shop. The team that runs the shop will have an idea

about which of these are practical and commercially viable, and which may at least increase activity in the shop (which might encourage involvement in manning it).

Many of the suggestions are desirable from a community perspective, but require significant time input to make them work.

Most frequent suggestions:

- ❖ Dry cleaning
- ❖ Fresh bread (possible installation of small baking unit)
- ❖ Delivery service (perhaps weekly and at least for those that need it)
- ❖ Family sized grocery packs – cheaper
- ❖ DVD hire, at least for major titles (perhaps a link to an online service)

Others:

- ❖ Magazine subscriptions
 - ❖ Newspapers without the need to order them
 - ❖ Photocopying and fax facilities
 - ❖ Internet access
 - ❖ Fresh flowers
 - ❖ A wider range of cooked meats and cheeses
 - ❖ Community coffee shop
 - ❖ Organic products
-
- ❖ Lottery tickets
 - ❖ Weekly collection of prescriptions and medicines
 - ❖ Book depository – second hand books swapped for small fee
 - ❖ Centralised vegetable box scheme (perhaps cheaper than home delivery) linked to local firm
 - ❖ Locally made arts and crafts
 - ❖ Savings club
 - ❖ Cigarettes and tobacco

8. | ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARISH

Conclusions and Recommendations

From the findings under the heading of Housing Development, we propose the following actions:

Issue	Solution & Actions	Partners
Widespread resistance to significant increases in housing stock.	Parish Council to reflect results in their response to Planning Applications.	Parish Council
Recognised need for limited new development particularly to accommodate families and young locals	Examination of opportunities for cost effective housing that can be controlled and meet other concerns within the Parish. Consideration to how well the Parish Council relates to the external planning bodies.	Parish Council EDDC Devon CC Housing Associations

Outcomes

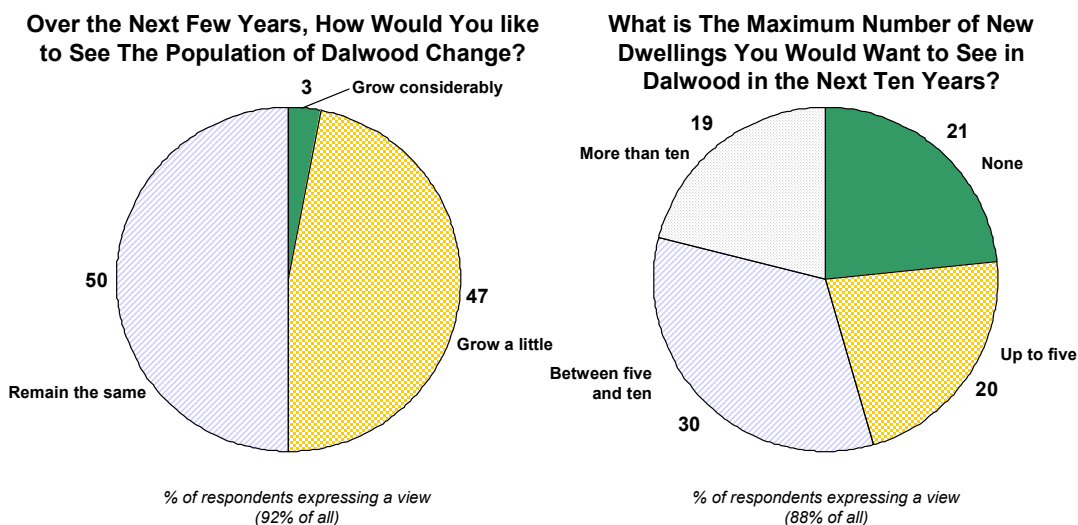
There is a strong prevailing view that, at the very most, the population of the parish should grow no more than a little over the next few years, with only 3% advocating considerable growth.

In terms of the number of new dwellings that would be acceptable, more than three-quarters consider no more than ten to be sufficient and a significant minority would like to see no new dwellings at all.

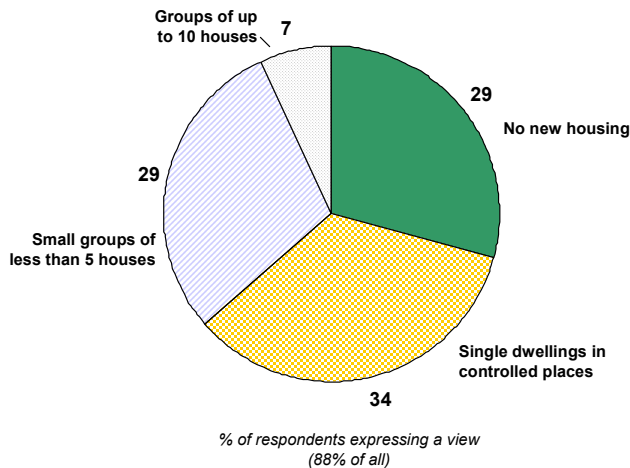
The majority favour no more than “single dwellings in controlled places”.

Attitudes towards extensions are somewhat more relaxed, but still more than half believe they should at least be limited to the owner’s essential needs, if allowed at all. Definition of “essential needs” might prove a debateable point.

However, we should recognise that opinion on housing development is very mixed.



What Types of Housing Development in Dalwood Would be Acceptable To You?



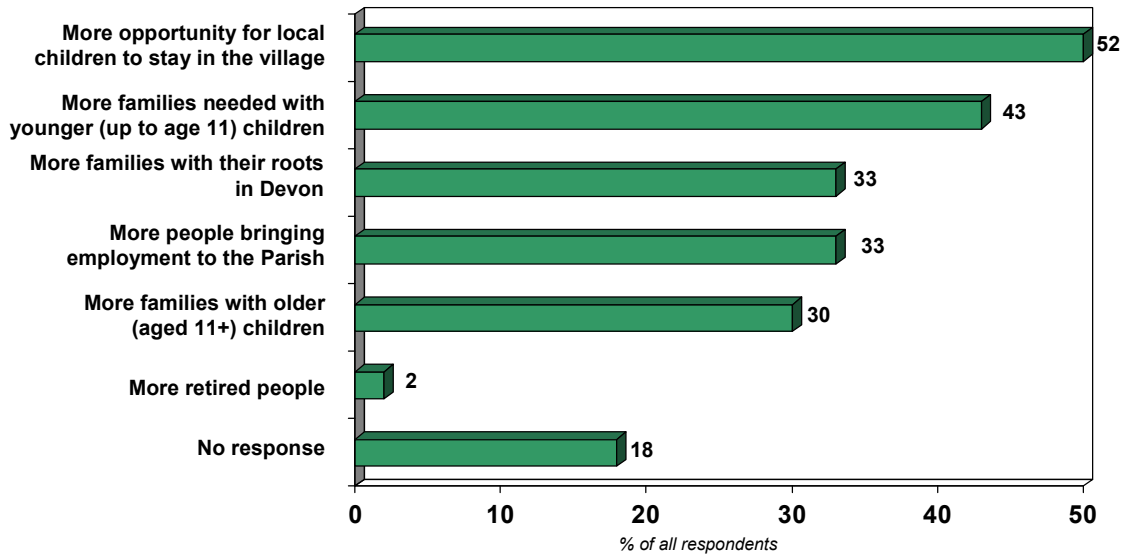
There is most support for the conversion of redundant buildings in the parish, 38% of our respondents being in favour. With regard to size of dwelling, there is most support for mid sized (three bed) houses, in keeping with the desire to see families moving into the parish, but it is a close call with other types of development:

- ❖ Conversion of redundant buildings 38%
- ❖ Mid sized (three bed) houses 35%
- ❖ Smaller (two bed) houses 25%
- ❖ Smaller cottages 25%
- ❖ A Dalwood Housing Association project 21%
- ❖ Bungalows 9%
- ❖ Larger (four, five bedroom houses) 7%
- ❖ Sheltered housing 6%
- ❖ NO NEW HOUSING 23%

21% were in favour of exploring the idea of a Dalwood Housing Association project, though we did not explore the proportion of respondents who would be actively against such a project.

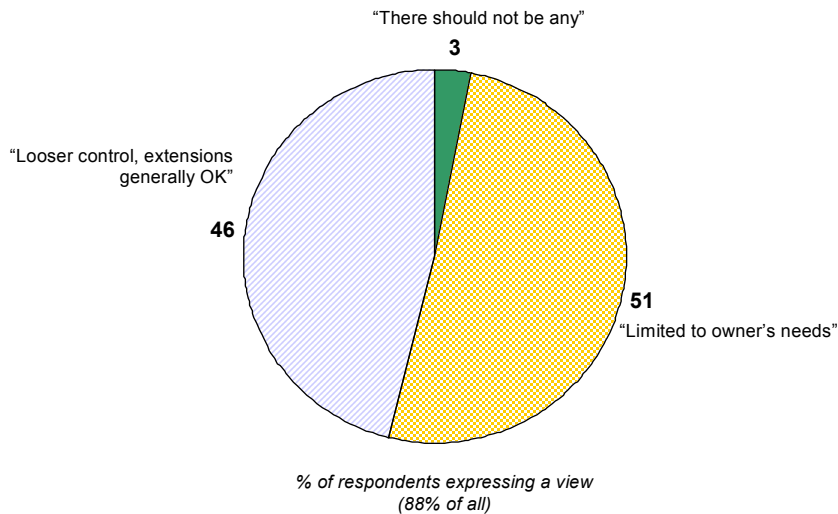
The views of the type of housing that would be most supported is reflected in the strong community desire to see younger, and local, people being able to stay in the village:

“Which of the Following Statements Describe Your View on the Mix of People That Live in the Parish?”



An alternative to new properties is, of course, house extensions:

What is Your General View on House Extensions?

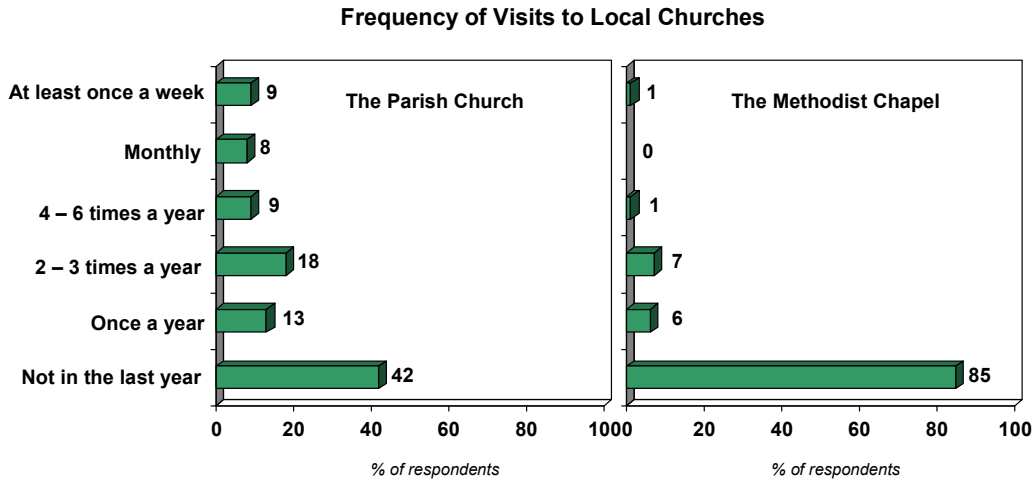


Respondents raised three key themes on the issue of house extensions:

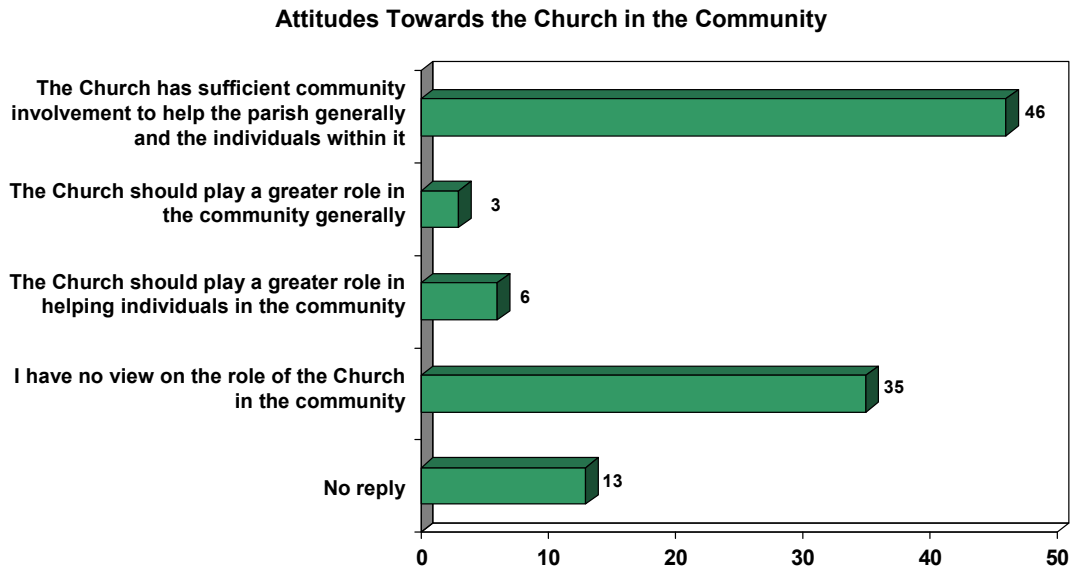
- ❖ The need for the extensions to blend in, to be appropriate to the character of the village
- ❖ The impact of extensions on reducing the smaller property housing stock (and therefore increasing the difficulty of locals to stay in the village as the average house price rises)
- ❖ The desire that extensions should be appropriate to the size of the existing building, and not to dominate it.

9. THE ROLE OF THE CHURCHES IN DALWOOD

The Parish Church is highlighted in the section on the things people like about the parish as an active participant in the community as a whole. Approximately one in six of our respondents visit the church at least monthly though a significant proportion – four out of every ten - have not visited it in the last year. We know that the Methodist Chapel is attended by more than the numbers indicated in our survey; perhaps those that do attend regularly chose not to participate in the survey, or chose not to reveal this information.



The Parish Church is considered to play an appropriate role in the community, but many are happy to state they have no view on these matters:



Very few respondents offered suggestions for ways the Parish Church could encourage greater involvement, but those that did promoted (1) more family services and (2) more uses for the Church itself beyond services – concerts, etc.

10. THE ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Conclusions and Recommendations

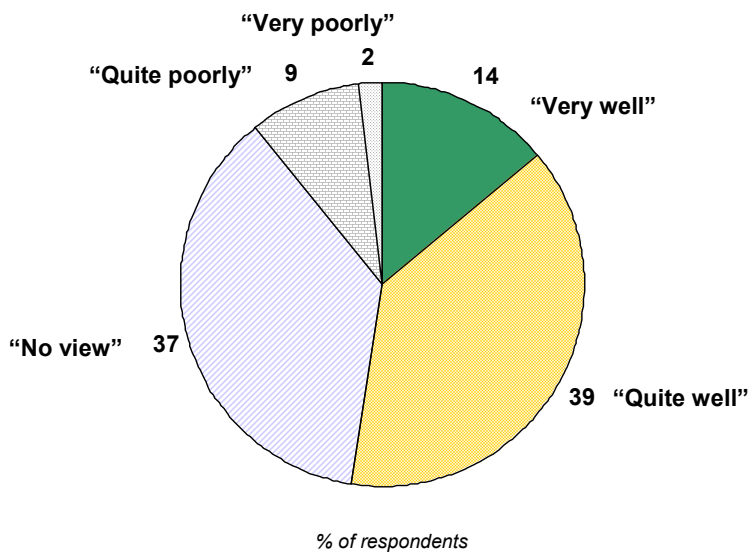
In this section of the report, we draw the following conclusions and recommendations:

Issue	Solution & Actions	Partners
Awareness of Parish Council Meetings and activities	Development of alternative methods of communication with the community; consideration to a more widely distributed dedicated newsletter	Parish Council
General lack of awareness of Community issues	Encouragement of use of the Dalwood website and consideration of other media.	Parish Council Village societies and clubs

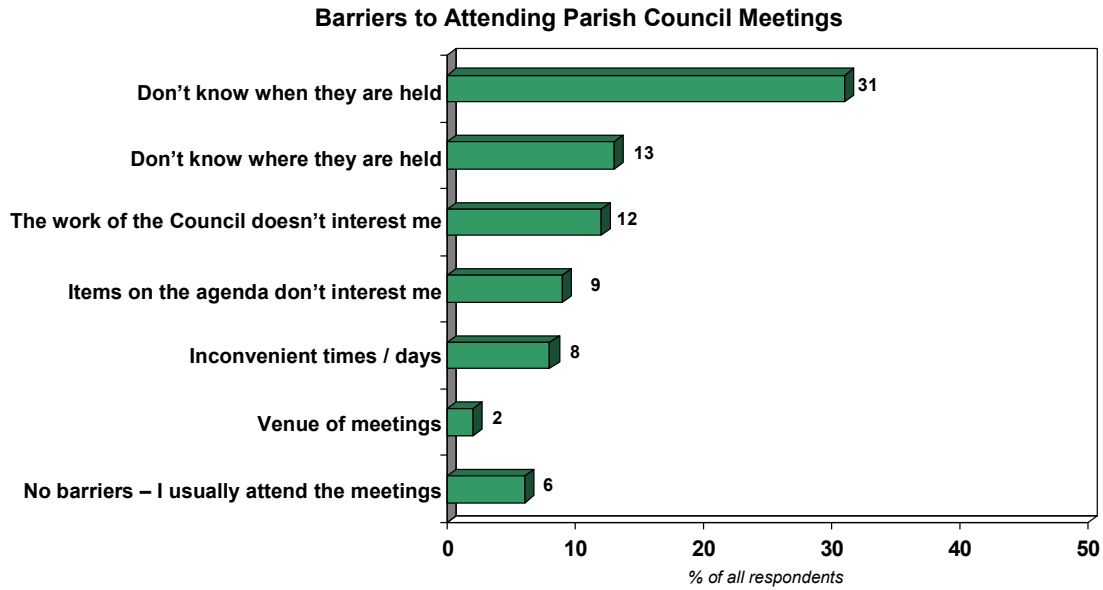
Outcomes

More than half of respondents consider the Parish Council manages the affairs of the parish “very well” or “quite well”, and only a small minority consider performance to be poor. The Council’s challenge is to influence the 37% who do not have a view; this is perhaps an issue of communication with the community, ensuring that their work is made known to the parish in a way that is interesting and appealing.

How Well Do You Think the Parish Council Manages the Affairs of the Parish?



Attendance at Council meetings is known to be low, so we were keen to explore why this is the case. In the chart below, we see that many more people consider they attend Council meetings than actually do so; they may perhaps have had the Annual General Meeting in mind when they answered this.



From this chart it is clear that providing information on when and where the monthly meetings are held may improve attendance, but of more concern perhaps is the 21% who indicate the work of the Council and the regular agenda is of no interest, considering the importance of the Council's work.

11. A COMPARISON OF VIEWS WITHIN THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

As we describe in Section 1, we approached all properties in the parish, and also some beyond the parish boundaries, in areas where the natural focus of the residents is Dalwood.

We are able to analyse the results along these lines and the table below provides a commentary of where and how opinions differ within the area. If an issue is not discussed below, then there is little or no significant difference in the results between the areas.

Issue	Measure	Within village envelope	In Parish, not in village envelope	Outside Parish
Attitudes Towards the Community		<i>Sense of community stronger in parish than outside</i>		
"Dalwood residents look after one another"	% agree a lot + agree a little	71	66	55
"The sense of community is stronger here than elsewhere"	% agree a lot + agree a little	55	53	42
How well we cater for different age groups:		<i>Those outside the parish consistently less convinced of our ability to cater for residents, especially those that are 17 and younger.</i>		
Children up to 10	% quite well + very well	47	24	24
11 - 17	% quite well + very well	26	11	2
18 - 24	% quite well + very well	11	5	0
25 - 44	% quite well + very well	34	24	9
45 - 64	% quite well + very well	60	50	31
65 and over	% quite well + very well	65	55	51
Housing & Development		<i>Those within the village envelope are significantly more protective of their space</i>		
Those wanting the population to remain the same	% of votes	58	43	38
Those wanting no new housing	% of votes	34	23	27
Those happy with the maximum number of dwellings in the next 10 years being 10 or more.	% of votes	11	21	27
Attitudes towards roads		<i>Those outside the parish more disillusioned with the quality of roads</i>		
Road Quality	% "very poor" + "quite poor"	56	53	71

Issue	Measure	Within village envelope	In Parish, not in village envelope	Outside Parish
Attitudes towards parking in the village		<i>Views on the approach to the parking issue in the village varies – on balance those outside the parish want more parking, those in the village more controlled parking</i>		
In favour of more parking in village	% somewhat + % strongly in favour	27	33	40
In favour of more controls on parking in the village	% somewhat + % strongly in favour	26	27	17
Attitudes towards other developments				
Favourability towards expanded recycling service	% somewhat + % strongly in favour	71	61	53
Interest in using a more frequent bus service to local towns	% very likely + % quite likely	49	32	33
Opposition to wind turbines	% strongly against	48	32	31
Attitudes Towards the Church				
		<i>A higher proportion of those within the village envelope appear less engaged with the Church.</i>		
“...has sufficient community involvement to help the village generally and the individuals in it”	% agreeing	34	52	42
“I have no view on the role of the church in the community”	% agreeing	45	31	31
The Village Shop				
		<i>The reach of the shop declines rapidly once beyond the village envelope</i>		
Frequency of visits	% at least once a week	55	38	31
Leisure Facilities in the Parish				
		<i>Those outside the parish are more enthusiastic about expanded leisure facilities, most strongly on these two items:</i>		
Attitudes towards a field owned by the parish for general use	% somewhat + % strongly in favour	60	70	71
Attitudes towards a children’s play area with equipment	% somewhat + % strongly in favour	53	50	67
Attitudes Towards the Village Hall				
		<i>Support to extend hall is stronger outside the village envelope. Support of other options similar throughout</i>		
Extension to existing Village Hall	% somewhat + % strongly in favour	20	30	33

Issued by the Parish Appraisal Committee, September 2009

**For further information contact Kathy Laing (01404 881601)
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With thanks for the contributions of all respondents