



THE LUPPITT  
PARISH PLAN  
2008



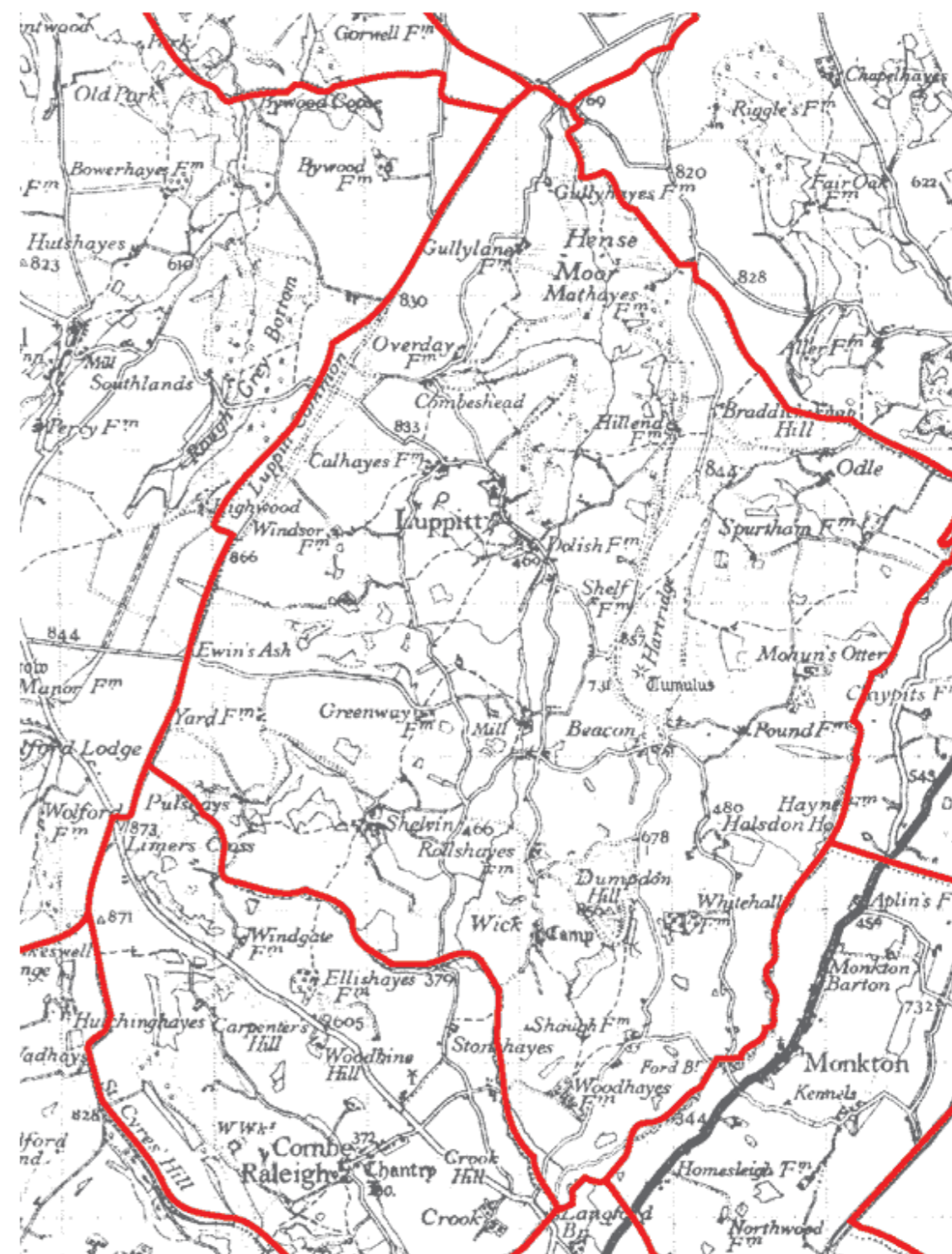
# CONTENTS

- The Parish Plan process 3
- The Action Plan and acknowledgements 4
- A profile of Luppitt 5
- Luppitt facilities and organisations 6
- Respondents to the questionnaire 10
- Action Plan
- Questionnaire responses and actions arising:
  - Employment 11
  - Housing and Development 12
  - Roads 13
  - Environment 14
  - Social and Leisure 16
  - Services 18
- Community contributions and comments 20
- The Action Plan 22

## THE PARISH PLAN PROCESS

In 2007 a committee was established at the suggestion of the Parish Council to look at producing a Parish Plan for Luppitt. Representatives from the key organisations in the Parish were asked to join. A straw poll asking people to broadly identify the main issues in the Parish was circulated amongst these groups. We then held a community event to discuss further some of these issues during our Christmas Bazaar at the end of 2007. The issues raised were then used to formulate a questionnaire that was hand delivered to every occupied household during the summer of 2008. Of the 181 questionnaires sent 141 were returned, a return rate of 78%.

The responses from the people of Luppitt form the basis for the Parish Plan.



## THE ACTION PLAN

On each page of the document we have provided the responses to the questionnaire, have highlighted the potential action arising and allocated responsibility and timings to ensure that these actions are followed up.

On the final two pages we have summarised all findings and actions arising in table form for easy reference. This forms the basis of the Action Plan.

In the main, the Plan identifies actions that need to be undertaken by the Parish Council but there are other areas which will involve other organisations and agencies and others again where the continued and ongoing support of the community will be required in order to effect real change.

We believe that the level of response that we had to the questionnaire demonstrates how strongly people feel about the community in which we all live and work and we hope that we can count on the community's continued support in our endeavours to improve it, not only for ourselves but also for future generations.

We hope to provide ongoing feedback about developments that take place as a result of this plan.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

A great number of people have been involved in putting together the Plan and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made a contribution.

First of all, thanks go to our Parishioners who have given up valuable time to complete the questionnaire. To have such a high percentage of respondents is, we believe, a triumph in itself.

The following people were involved in the production of this plan:

Joan Beckett	Jean Hooper
May Bowsher	Mary Ann McCaig
Kate Brake	Pearl Pulman
Wendy Clapp	Arthur Sage
Chris Charlton	Andrew Tucker
Lisa Clouter	Phillip Watson
Lindsey Dalgety (Chairperson)	Wendy Watson
Leslie Goode	

A big thank you to the Luppitt Packet distributors for delivering and collecting the questionnaires.

The project has been funded by a grant from East Devon District Council through the Parish Council.

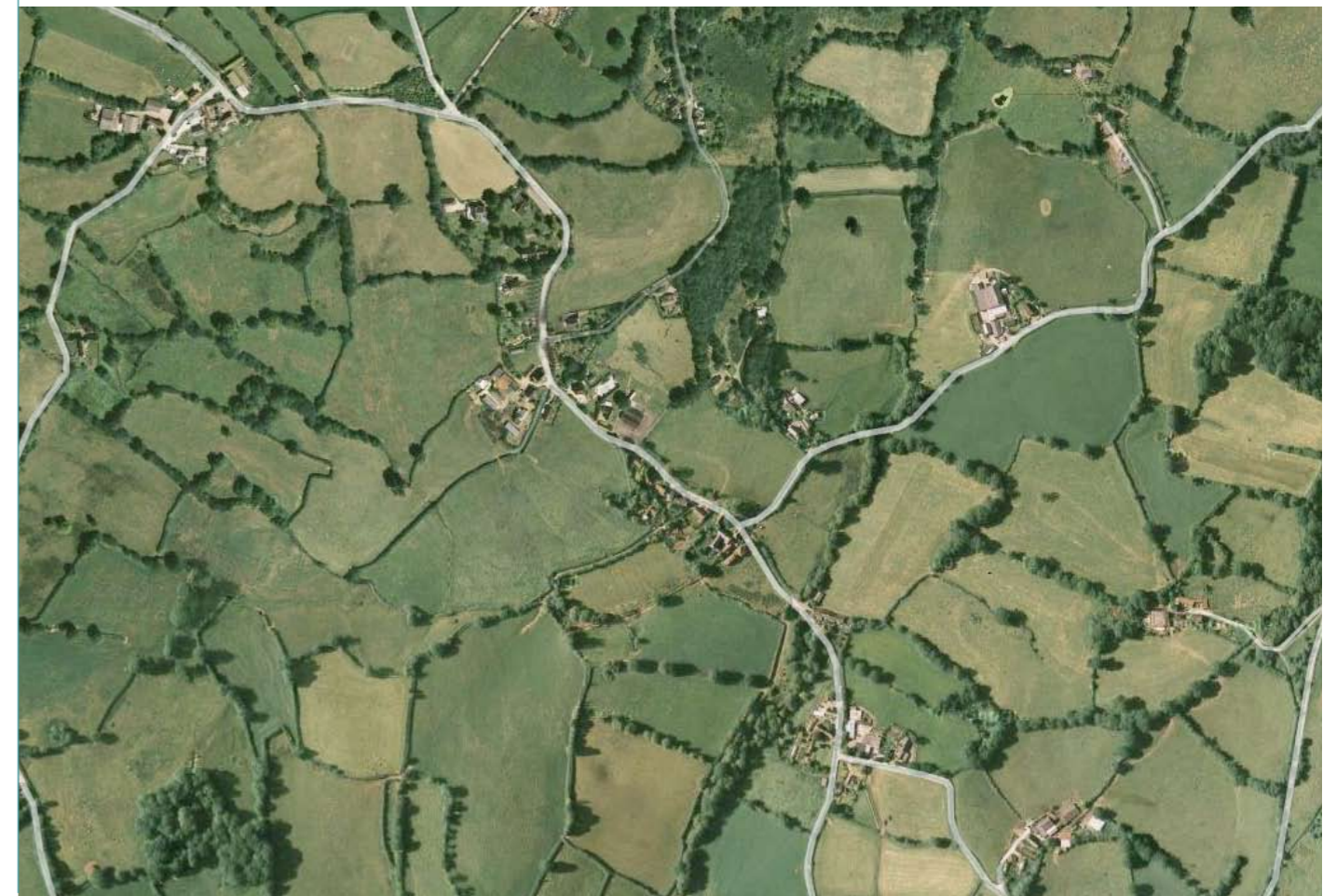
## A PROFILE OF LUPPITT

The Parish of Luppitt, which is comprised of the villages of Luppitt, Beacon and Wick, is set in the heart of picturesque East Devon, some 7 miles from the market town of Honiton. The Parish borders on the beautiful Otter Valley, which is part of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Luppitt is geographically one of the larger Parishes in the Otter Ward, but has a relatively small population of 444 people according to the 2001 Census. In 1999 a Parish census (with over 90% response rate) was undertaken by local people for the Millennium Bench project. This found that there were 207 men, 196 women and 107 children (under 16) totalling 510 people living in 197 houses/dwellings.

Luppitt is made up of a tapestry of small family run farms, and has some 25 miles of roads and lanes, common land, upland grazing, farmland, public footpaths and bridleways. Although there is little infrastructure in the village, as there is no longer a school, shop, bus service or health service, Luppitt is a thriving community. It has a Church, Village Hall, a pub, a Vihara (a Buddhist monastery), and a brewery (which makes the very successful Otter Ales). Luppitt boasts the famous Dumpdon Hill with an Iron Age Fort, which is National Trust and a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

The ancient Church has an interesting Saxon Font and we have erected a permanent Puzzle Bench with many interesting facts about Luppitt in the Churchyard to commemorate the Millennium. Luppitt has many listed houses and several mentioned in the Domesday Book. We have a Luppitt History of 8 volumes with copies in the Devon Records Office, Honiton Library and Luppitt Village Hall.



## LUPPITT FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The people who live in this lovely place count themselves lucky to have these facilities, and Luppitt is generally a very active, social Parish. Below are listed are some of the key organisations and facilities in Luppitt.

**The Luppitt Packet** is the village's successful monthly magazine. This is delivered free to every house in the Parish, giving information about Parish Council meetings and village activities, Church information and other information of interest to the local community. It is funded by advertisements from local businesses and is approximately 50 pages long.

Social activities in Luppitt centre on the Church, Village Hall and pub. They include a pre-school playgroup, two children's play areas, Youth Club, Luppitt Players, Wives Group, Social Group, Over 60's Luncheon Club, History Society and Friday Market.

**The Village Hall** was an ex-army building, built in 1948 on land donated by John Bishop who lived at Newmans. A new building was built in the early 1980's and a games room added in

the early 1990's with funds left to the parish, the Walden bequest, and various grants. Various activities take place in the hall and it is the social centre of the Parish. Annual events include the Fete, Summer Madness, Dances, Tug-of-War competitions, and cricket matches. It has two large halls, one with a stage and the other with sports equipment including badminton, darts, snooker and skittles. There is a fully fitted kitchen, a separate server, a conference room and disabled facilities. Outside there is a tennis court, a play area and children's activities on the green behind the Hall, with ample parking space.

**The Over 60's Luncheon Club** was formed in 1994. This takes place in the Village Hall and is where the over 60's can meet for lunch and socialise. The club meets every second Thursday of each month, and everyone is made very welcome. The club receives half of the profit from the Annual Whist Drive, which goes towards the Christmas Dinner.

**Luppitt Soft Play Group** is for babies, toddlers and pre-school children and their parents. The group meets on Tuesday afternoons in the

Village Hall during term time. Up to a dozen children regularly attend. The group has high quality play equipment, crash mats, an indoor climbing frame and trampoline. Other toys such as hoops, balls and the parachute are popular with the older children. It is a small and welcoming group for parents, grandparents and children alike.

**Luppitt Youth Club** meets on a Friday at the Village Hall. It is a place where young people aged 8 years and above can get together outside of school. Some of the regular activities include: football, darts, pool, team games, cooking, art, karaoke, bbq evenings and skittles. The group often has outings to ice skating, bowling, laser games and recently to Exeter Football Club. The Youth Club is run by a committee of volunteer parents.

**Luppitt Wives** group was formed in the early 1970's by Rev Peter Alcock as an informal meeting for women to socialise. Wives today still meet regularly for many different social occasions. These include cooking demonstrations, visiting places of interest, trips out to lunch, skittles to name a few.

**The Mobile Library** provides a welcome source of books every other Wednesday at the Village Hall.

**St Mary's Church** The present Church building is believed to have been constructed early in the fourteenth century, and there is physical evidence of the existence of a Christian community in Luppitt since shortly after the Conquest. Luppitt was first united with neighbouring parishes in 1974, and is now served by the Rector of Dunkeswell, in a Benefice comprising Dunkeswell, Upton, Sheldon and Luppitt. The Church building is structurally sound and attention is given to the endless need for minor maintenance. The priority for the considerable recent expenditure on both fabric and facilities has been to improve 'user-friendliness', with better heating, lighting and hearing. A fully accessible toilet facility is planned. The churchyard is well maintained. The Church Electoral Roll is thirty-six persons (2006-2007), of whom thirty-two are resident in the Parish. Services are held in the Church every Sunday, although the size of the weekly congregation does not reliably



reflect the levels of support for the Church within the community. Many of those who do not worship regularly contribute nonetheless to church funds. Church members are also closely involved in the life of the village, serving on the Parish Council; and either running or helping to run many other amenities and activities not directly connected with the Church.

**The Luppitt Mothers' Union** group is small, reflecting the size of the village, but is part of the largest world-wide group of women in the world. It has a voice in the village and a voice at the UN. Although it is part of the Church of England, membership is open to anyone who shares the vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships. The group believes in the value of the family in its many forms as a source of love and support for individuals and the basis for a caring community. At present there are 11 members. Meetings and activities are open to all.

The group join in knitting sweaters and blankets for India and Africa as well as premature baby sets for Devon hospitals. Their local project is supporting the Women's Refuge in Honiton

with emergency food parcels, clothes and other items when they are requested. Last year the group responded instantly to an urgent appeal for cot bedding. In 2007 23 Shoe Boxes of gifts at Christmas time were sent to Operation Christmas Child, a charity who distributed them to needy children in the former communist states of Eastern Europe. The group is looking forward to making a new banner to march us into our next century in 2009, and to demonstrating the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

**The Luppitt Inn** is a unique institution. Mary, the Landlady, is the fourth generation of a local family to run this small local pub which is essentially untouched by modern life. CAMRA has voted it the number 2 least spoilt pub in Britain.

**The Commons and Commoners.** There are over 300ha of beautiful, unspoilt Common land in Luppitt Parish. It is comprised of Hense Moor, Luppitt Common and Hartridge which are owned by the Commoners themselves, and Dumpdon Hill which is owned by the National Trust.



Classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) back in the 1980s, it is generally regarded as one of the most important wildlife sites in the Blackdown Hills and as one of the most important areas of lowland mixed valley mire in South West England.

It is such a rich site because of its differing soils and drainage variations on the valley bottoms, hillsides and hilltops. This leads to a wide variation of habitats, and therefore a rich variety of fauna and flora exist over the Commons. Many protected and incredibly rare species are to be found on Hense Moor. Since the Manorial system of the middle ages, less productive land within the Parish has been used for additional grazing, the provision of winter fodder for animals and for cutting and collection of wood.

Landowners within the Parish were granted rights to use the commons for certain activities whilst ownership of the manorial rights remained with the Lord of the manor. The system remains essentially the same, except that Commons Rights are now officially recorded under the 1965 Commons Registrations Act and the Commons are administered through a democratically elected

Committee in accordance with a Trust Deed set up in 1956 when the Commons were purchased on behalf of all Luppitt Commoners from the successor in title to the Lord of the Manor. Commons Committees are elected at an AGM annually. Meetings to decide policy and agree management are held frequently throughout the year.

There are currently over 70 registered Commoners with the right to graze the Commons. Not all exercise their rights. Instead of grazing in common, the current practice is to allocate specific areas to a particular commoner for their own use for a specified period, thus simplifying management and animal welfare. The aim of the Commoners is to preserve the unique blend of flora and fauna which the Commons contain for future generations and for the enjoyment of all within the Parish.

## RESPONDENTS TO QUESTIONNAIRE

### Household Data

141 out of 183 households responded to the questionnaire (77.9%), with 289 persons answering at least some of the questions.

Some respondents stated that they felt unable to answer questions due either to their recent arrival in the Parish, or living here only part of the time.

346 persons (adults & children) are represented by the results of the questionnaire.

There are 12 registered disabled people in the Parish. No household reported more than one registered disabled person.

#### How many people, including children, normally live in your household?

• Family size	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Frequency	26	65	21	20	7	2
• Average	2.45					

#### Enter the number of people for each age group in your household.

• Age group	0-4yrs	5-17yrs	18-65yrs	65+yrs
• Persons in each age group	22	34	202	88
• Proportion of persons in each age group	6.4%	9.8%	58.4%	25.4%

• Total number of disabled persons in responding households - 12



## ACTION PLAN

### Employment

#### If you work, do you work:

• At home	86
• Elsewhere in the Parish	13
• Outside Parish, but within 10 miles	35
• Over 10 miles from home	37
• Varied locations	34
• No reply to this question	84

As there was no request for individual respondents to indicate their ages (this was aggregated by household only), it is not possible to identify persons who have retired from work. However, it is estimated that around 60% of respondents who did not reply to this question, are likely to be retired; a few stated this in their response.

#### If you run a business in the Parish, into which category does it fall?

95 respondents indicated that they run a business. Of these, 3 families were involved in running more than one type of business: mostly these were closely related activities (typically farming / contracting).

#### Would you like to see more business development in the Parish?

Overall, there is a majority wishing to see no more business development, and of those who addressed the question 'if yes, what?' 13 out of 33 included the word 'small' in their reply. Six persons suggested using existing buildings or that businesses should be run from home.

There tended to be an emphasis on activities in keeping with the existing character of the area: 'country crafts', 'light artisan', 'small rural industries', farm or co-operatively run shops. One respondent made the point that development should not need 'large or too many vehicles'; another that current transport infrastructure is inadequate to support additional development.

Two respondents specifically referred to the need for new businesses 'to help the community' or saying that otherwise 'the village will die'. However, another argued that 'Luppitt doesn't need to compete with Dunkswell for business unit provision.' One respondent made the comment 'What is missing from Luppitt is a heart. No shop, no post office, no pub offering food. These are the things that are needed to encourage village life.'

Three respondents argued for public house development: 'better public facilities (pub)'; a real pub'; or 'a dedicated public house offering a 21st century service!'

#### What would be your reaction to more small-scale light industrial workshops?

95 respondents indicated that they run a business. Of these, 3 families were involved in running more than one type of business: mostly these were closely related activities (typically farming / contracting).

• In favour	59
• Against	149
• No opinion	65
• No reply to this question	16



## Housing and Development

### During the next 10 years, would you like to see the housing stock of the Parish:

- Remain the same 116
- Increase by 0 to 10 dwellings 99
- Increase by 10+ dwellings 29
- No opinion 31
- No reply 14

### What type of building development would you like to see in the Parish:

- None 90
- Infilling with single buildings 101
- Infilling with small groups 20
- Expansion on edge of built up area 20
- Accommodation for dependents 65
- Business units 10
- Agricultural tied housing 47
- Holiday lets 7
- Affordable 8
- Conversions 8
- Shopping centre 1
- No reply 26

The majority would like to see no increase in the housing stock, or fewer than 10 scattered throughout the whole parish.

There is some sympathy for accommodation for dependents. Two respondents made points relating to land which should not be developed: one urged avoidance of building on SSSI areas; another proposed that only 'brown-field' sites should be developed, to avoid building on any further agricultural land, citing concerns about climate change.

One respondent urged that barn conversions should only be allowed for the creation of dwellings, not for holiday lets. Two others expressed concern about the number of second homes in the Parish.

### Actions:

The majority of Parishioners do not want any business development, light industry or more than 10 new houses. This must be taken into consideration by the Parish Council when considering Planning applications that come before it. However there is some sympathy for accommodation for children and aged dependents.

Who by: Parish Council  
 Timing: Ongoing



## Roads

### What do you think are the key road and highway issues in the Parish?

- Ditches 154
- Hedges and verges 140
- Inadequate signs throughout the Parish 37
- Large goods vehicles 114
- Potholes 246
- Speeding 140

#### Other:

- maintenance & re-engineering 11
- drivers' behaviour 3
- parking issues 3
- No reply to this question 12

Overall, 277 people addressed this question, suggesting that there is a high level of concern about these matters.

To some extent, the figures speak for themselves: it is clear that potholes are considered to be a major issue, as 88.8% of those who answered this question at all, ticked this box.

Three replies identified parking issues: at Mountstephens, blocking rights of way in Wick, at Millrise. Two respondents suggested that there should be a vehicle weight limit introduced, except for village access. Two people specifically mentioned excessive size of agricultural vehicles and trailers, citing damage caused to hedges, verges and (specifically) Ford Bridge.

A few responses went beyond questions of the maintenance of roads and their borders, and into the realm of works involving re-engineering. One person was very concerned about the 'continuous running water' on the corner of Church Hill, nearest to the church gate, and the consequent formation of ice in winter. Another wrote about 'too much flooding especially in Beacon'.

One respondent proposed 'Improvement to parking at Millrise as population needs have changed, and visitors to the play park exacerbate the problem'. Another wanted to see Ford Bridge enlarged. One wanted proper signage to the Brewery. One respondent went so far as to state that 'Virtually all my answers [to this questionnaire] are affected by the difficult and dangerous single track lanes.'

Of the 140 people identifying speeding as an issue, one respondent suggested a 20 mph limit throughout the Parish. One respondent suggested that the Parish should 'avoid the temptation to widen to "ease" traffic flow', fearing that this would only encourage more traffic.

### With so many miles of lanes in the Parish, would you be in favour of a signposted principal road route through the village?

There was no clear overall majority view on this question, although the largest grouping voted against signposting a principal route through the village

### Would you be in favour of the Parish controlling its own budget and appointing contractors to carry out road maintenance?

- Yes 183
- No 40
- No opinion 54
- No reply to this question 12

### Actions:

A large majority of Parishioners favour taking control of the budget for caring for roads, verges and hedges. The Parish Council will investigate the possibility of this, and carry it out.

Lead: Parish Council  
 Partners: Devon County Council  
 East Devon District Council  
 Timing: Ongoing

## Environment

### Do you think there is too much noise?

• Aeroplanes	72
• Microlights	76
• Sports stadiums	51
• Traffic	23
<b>Other:</b>	
• agricultural vehicles	3
• barking dogs	2
• industrial / building noise	2
• traffic related to specific premises	2
• fireworks other than around 5 Nov	1
• light pollution	1
• No reply to this question	167

Only 122 persons (that is 42.2% of respondents) addressed this question, suggesting that this is not a major area of concern for the majority of parishioners.

However, of those who did respond, a clear majority were worried by aircraft noise - aeroplanes and / or microlights. A significant number of people also expressed concern about noise from the sports stadiums, with particular reference being made to Smeatharpe.

### Do you think there should be more development at Dunkeswell and Smeatharpe racing track?

• Yes	41
• No	179
• No opinion	63
• No reply to this question	6

There was a clear majority opinion against further development at the race tracks. One respondent suggested that they 'would support development at the race track if it was for light industrial use and reduced the usage for racing.'

### Do you use a Green Box for recycling?

• Yes	111
• No	28
<b>If not, please tell us why:</b>	
• do not have a Green Box	12
• not aware of the scheme	3
• too far to carry Green Boxes	3
• box too small	2
• range of materials collected too restricted	2
• unsatisfactory collections	2
• independently recycling	7
• No reply to this question	2

A large majority of households use the Green Box scheme, although some also use the council facilities to recycle items which are not covered by the collections.

Of those households not using the Green Box scheme, a quarter recycle independently anyway. It is notable that, while a number of respondents reporting that they do not have a Green Box are located in out-lying parts of the Parish, it would also appear that some properties in Millrise are not covered.

### Do you think the Parish should use "green energy"?

• Coppicing	82
• Geo-thermal	67
• Water	80
• Wind	110
• Solar	113
<b>Other:</b>	
• biomass	1
• No reply	100

Overall, 189 persons (that is 65.4% of respondents) addressed this question. A number of respondents made additional comments: Six respondents stated that they felt that they had insufficient information to form an opinion.

One commented 'Carbon footprint issues need to be properly and carefully thought through. This rarely happens in practice anywhere. There is too much trend-following without regard to the real implications.'

Another stated that they are 'strongly against wind turbines on industrial scale' but that small units on individual houses are acceptable. Three respondents specifically mentioned financial and cost implications, one suggesting that any scheme should be economically viable within a five year period.

Four respondents questioned the need for 'green energy': two of these asked how the Parish itself uses energy, as opposed to individual households. One respondent advocated advanced energy saving technologies to minimise energy requirements; another simply said 'wear more clothing!'.

### Do you use the public footpaths and bridleways in the Parish?

• Yes	169
• No	105
• Don't know	2
• No reply to this question	13

A majority state that they use the public footpaths and bridleways.

### Is the maintenance of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish important to you?

• Yes	177
• No	49
• No opinion	52
• No reply to this question	11

A clear majority state that they consider the maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways to be important. 29 people who state that they do not themselves use the paths, still consider their upkeep to be important.



### Actions:

Further recycling efforts would be appreciated by the majority of Parishioners. The Parish Council will investigate further categories for recycling and the possibility of community composting.

Lead:	Parish Council
Partners:	East Devon District Council
Timing:	Ongoing

## Social and Leisure

### How often do you use the village hall?

• Weekly	51
• Monthly	40
• Annually	3
• Special occasions	143
• Never	42
• No reply	10

Of those who said that they ‘never’ use the Hall, around half who gave the information, indicated that they lived away from the centre of the village (ie Beacon, Wick or out-lying farms).

### Are there any further organisations or events you would like to see take place at the village hall?

#### Suggestions received:

- Exhibitions and workshops of arts and crafts
- Live music
- Farmers’ Market
- Gardening Club
- Shortmat bowls
- Skate/play park
- Bingo
- Cookery demonstrations
- Discos for young people
- Local history events
- Model making club
- Quiz nights
- Scouts/cubs/guides/brownies
- Sunday school
- Topical lectures with invited speakers
- Tourist information
- Village get-togethers.

Up to three suggestions were received from some persons. One respondent commented, ‘The play park in Millrise is a waste of money as Millrise is virtually ‘child-less’ and any visitors don’t have anywhere to park. The village and its visitors would benefit more from the park if it was relocated to the village hall.’

### Do you have any concerns about any events in the Parish?

This was an open question, to which respondents were invited to make any comments they wished. Only 17 respondents expressed concerns about events at the Village Hall, but many made the same complaints. Five respondents specifically mentioned problems arising from Young Farmers’ Club events; and another referred to ‘youth events’. Two made reference to disruption caused by persons turned away from events. Two persons wrote of problems arising from the Summer Madness.

### Would you like to see more of the following in the village?

There has been some over-lap with answers to the previous question.

• Cultural events	70
• Events for children	66
• Film club	45
• Neighbourhood watch	93
• Play facilities	49
• Sports facilities	46
<b>Other:</b>	
• Refurbishment of tennis court	2
• Village shop	1
• Pony club	1
• Swimming pool	1
• No reply to this question	104

### How often do you attend St Mary’s Church?

• Weekly	18
• Monthly	19
• Annually	17
• Special occasions	142
• Never	81
• No reply	12

There appears to have been some confusion in the phrasing of this question, as it did not make clear whether single or multiple answers were expected.

In analysing the response it has therefore been necessary to process answers as follows: If a respondent has indicated attendance both ‘monthly’ and on ‘special occasions’, this has been logged as being the more frequent (ie ‘monthly’) attendance.

However, without our specifying what constitutes a ‘special occasion’, it is possible that there may be confusion with an annual event, such as Harvest or the Christmas carol service. Overall, 67.8% of respondents state that they attend the church on occasions; this does not count persons attending other churches (other locations or denominations) on occasions.

### Are there any further events that you would like to see at the Church, other than Church services?

• Musical events	13
• Art exhibitions	3
• Flower festivals	3
• Bell tower open day	1
• Children’s corner	1
• Confirmation classes	1
• Sunday School	1
• Youth events	1
• Simple services	1
• No reply to this question	265

Overall, 24 persons offered suggestions for this question. Cross-tabulation against answers to question 26 shows that all but one of the respondents who made suggestions, classified themselves at least as occasional attendees.

### How do you find out about what is going on in the Parish?

• General word of mouth	163
• Information boards	47
• Luppitt Packet	265
• Event advertising approaching village	81
<b>Other</b>	
• Local newspapers	1
• No reply to this question	11

278 people answered this question. It will be seen that the Luppitt Packet is regarded as the main source of information about events in the parish, being cited by 91.7% of respondents. 93 people named the Packet as their only source.

## Actions:

A “Heart of the Village” would be supported by a majority of the Parish. This could be achieved by the establishment of a shop, post office/pub complex. The profile of the Village Hall to be raised.

- Lead: Parish Council
- Partners: The village
- Timing: ASAP



## Services

### If any of the following services could be provided within the Parish, which would you use?

• Aluminium collection for recycling	89
• Bulk waste collection (e.g. cookers etc)	114
• Cardboard collection for recycling	179
• Community compost facilities	56
• Farm waste (plastics/slurry) collection	36
• Garden machinery for community use	29
• Plastic recycling	204
• No reply to this question	41

This question allowed multiple responses. Overall, 248 persons addressed this question. There is clearly majority support for extending collections to include cardboard and plastics, with significant support (say around 20% or more) for bulk waste and aluminium collections.

There was also support for establishing community composting. Even a relatively small garden can produce large volumes of grass cuttings and hedge clippings, which may be more than can be handled through the ready made compost bins available from garden centres or the council. *Action is identified on p.3.*

### Do you think the local household refuse collection service is:

• Good	160
• Adequate	111
• Poor	4
• No reply to this question	14

There was a very clear majority opinion that the service provided is at least 'adequate', and more than half of respondents thought it 'good'. Two replies commented upon having to take bins a long distance to the collection point. Three respondents who rated the service as 'adequate' called for more recycling. One respondent said that they would like 'wheelie bins'. One respondent said made the point that they liked the weekly collection.

### Do you think more litter bins are needed in the Parish?

• Yes	72
• No	96
• No opinion	102
• No reply to this question	19

There was no large majority view expressed. One respondent criticised the laminated notices posted on telegraph poles earlier this year, which 'went on about litter in the hedgerows'. The respondent found this notice 'offensive', and felt 'if that person has time to put the notice up then they have time to clear up themselves'.

### Would you like Broadband throughout the Parish?

• Yes	216
• No	12
• No opinion	48
• No reply to this question	1

A large majority of respondents wished to see broadband available throughout the Parish.

Of the additional comments made, two were simply emphatic statements in favour of broadband. One stated that the availability of mobile broadband meant that a land-line service was not now necessary.

One respondent, however, gave a very detailed analysis of the subject, identifying it as a major quality of life issue' due to the difficulty in communicating with remote family members, and the impossibility of accessing standard computer security software updates over a dial-up connection, due to download sizes.

### Would you support a Post Office / Shop in the Parish?

• Yes	208
• No	42
• No opinion	24
• No reply to this question	15

A large majority of respondents stated that they would support a post office and / or shop in the Parish. Two persons called into question the viability of such a venture. *Action is identified on p.15.*

### Do you worry about crime occurring in the Parish?

• Yes	158
• No	88
• No opinion	26
• No reply to this question	17

A majority of parishioners stated that they worry about crime, although three of those who did so, stated under 'additional comments' that they only did so 'slightly' or 'not unduly'.

### If you do worry, please tell us how the Parish can be better safeguarded:

• Increased police presence / activity	25
• Neighbourhood watch	16
• Householder vigilance / precautions	9
• Parental control / teaching	2
• 'Traditional approach' (stocks / gibbet)	2
• Fewer events with alcohol	1
• No reply to this question	242

The majority of responses called for increased activity, patrols, visibility, or actual presence of the police force: some mentioned police community support officers, but one respondent specifically stated that the requirement was for 'increasing the number of full time police - not community patrol officers'.

### Would you support a weekly doctor's surgery in the Parish?

• Yes	111
• No	99
• No opinion	56
• No reply to this question	23

More people said that they would support a weekly doctor's surgery held locally, than said that they would not.

## Actions:

Improvements to Broadband would be favoured by the majority of Parishioners and will be encouraged by the Parish Council.

Lead:	Parish Council
Partners:	British Telecom
Timing:	ASAP

Establishing more contact with the Police would be favoured by the majority of Parishioners and will be encouraged by the Parish Council. Further efforts will be taken to re-establish a Neighbourhood Watch centre in the Parish.

Lead:	Parish Council
Partners:	Police
Timing:	ASAP

A weekly Doctor's Surgery has reasonable support in the village. The possibility of this will be investigated.

Lead:	Parish Council
Partners:	Blackdown Hills Practice
Timing:	Ongoing

## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMENTS

As part of the Parish Plan project all respondents were invited to make any additional comments about the project itself, or related to the topics which were covered in the questionnaire.

One person took strong exception to the principle of the questionnaire, making the point that they felt it was inappropriate for Parish Councils to be used to carry out this sort of exercise and that there was no indication that the information gained from the questionnaires would be used constructively. They felt it was simply an exercise to prove that action and policy introduced at a much higher level and bearing no relation to what individual parishes had said, was based on 'consultation'.

This was not, however, the view of the majority and five respondents actually passed on their thanks and commendation to the Parish Council for undertaking the questionnaire.

A number of respondents commented on the character of Luppitt. Many of these were complimentary as follows:

*"Having lived in Luppitt for many years since 1976 (not continuously) and have never found a place where I would rather live, I feel the two main attractions are the beautiful setting and the people - especially the farming community*

*"Luppitt is very charming".*

*"...we are very pleased to be living in Luppitt. Everybody is very helpful and kind and very welcoming"*

One of the biggest concerns that was expressed was about potential development, either housing or industry/business, with many people feeling that anything other than a limited amount of development would affect the rural nature of the community.

*"We are against any development, either housing or industry / business, in the parish. Although promises would be made that any such development would remain small, they inevitably increase in number and size, as for example has happened at the brewery. Luppitt is a sparsely populated parish and should be kept as such."*

*"Luppitt is a rural community, and I would like it to remain unchanged with no concession to industry other than agriculture"*

*"We feel that we need to keep our sense of community."*

This was not, however, the view of all respondents. Whilst some appreciated the small/rural nature of the community, others felt that it was necessary for some housing and small business to appear otherwise the country community may not survive.

*"It is a great opportunity for EDDC to come out of the Dark Ages, as far as planning is concerned and make Luppitt an exciting place to live, as it deserves."*

*"The questions about 'development' are the most difficult to answer. We are against the current relentless 'development' of countryside to house more and more people, and do not believe that any local or national government should impose an influx of people and their housing unless this is desired by those already there. However, we do wish to ensure that villages such as Luppitt continue as communities and do not become dormitory suburbs for Exeter. Therefore there needs to be local work and not just agriculture which may not provide enough jobs. We can't turn agricultural land, which may be increasingly vital for growing food, into industrial sites, and have been warned that we must keep a more 'green' land if possible. Can we develop small local based business? Business based on internet communication? Increased fuel costs and maybe future carbon*

*rationing may encourage us to be even more of a community needing its shops, and dare we say Post Office and infant school?"*

*"There is always scope for improvement. What it does lack is a focal point for all (the church will serve this purpose for many but not all). Mary's hospitality will not continue forever. A shop/PO might provide a very welcome and valuable alternative and will appeal to many more than the few who use Mary's. Infill housing (or any other) must be aesthetically complementary to the Parish."*

One person commented that although they did not want any drastic or sudden changes to take place, they were concerned that young people are generally unable to live in the village in which they were born.

Although the clear majority of responses/comments were about development issues and their effect on the community, there were a number of other areas where respondents

felt improvements could be made. With regard to safety and security in the neighbourhood, there were comments about theft levels and that the police and fire brigade should conduct more regular area safety surveys. There were also concerns about the level of second home ownership and the negative impact this could have with these properties not contributing to the local community.

Finally, one respondent expressed the concern that the Parish Council should be more approachable, transparent and accountable. The Parish Council feels that, hopefully, the questionnaire and the development of the Parish Plan itself will go some way to working towards achieving those aims. Indeed, the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to make extra comment, positive and negative, about the Parish in which we live and work, as we hope the Parish Plan will provide a platform from which we can work together towards the greater common good.



## ACTION PLAN:

### Development, Planning & Employment

Issues	Aims	Actions	Partners	Priority	Timescale
No or very limited increase in new housing stock	To protect the visual character of the Parish	Ensure that EDDC incorporate these views in any current or future planning policies and when considering planning applications	Parish Council EDDC	High	Ongoing
Lack of affordable housing in the Parish	To ensure adequate housing for local needs, with particular sympathy for accommodation for children and aged dependents, and agricultural tied housing	Ensure that EDDC incorporate these views in any current or future planning policies and when considering planning applications	Parish Council EDDC	High	Ongoing
Further business & industrial development in the Parish	To prevent large business development and light industry development, but support agriculture, small businesses and rural crafts businesses	Ensure that EDDC incorporate these views in any current or future planning policies and when considering planning applications	Parish Council EDDC	High	Ongoing
Further business & industrial development in both the Parish and in neighbouring Parishes	To prevent further noise pollution & increased road traffic in the Parish	Carefully monitor, and where relevant, object to proposed expansion or new developments of businesses such as, but not limited to, motorsports which will lead to increased noise pollution or road traffic in the Parish	Parish Council Neighbouring Parish Councils EDDC MDDC DDC	Medium	Ongoing
Promoting more sustainable development	To increase the use of "green energy" in the Parish	Where possible, support green energy proposals by individual households and existing businesses in the Parish	Parish Council EDDC	Medium	Ongoing

### Roads, Transport and PROWs

Poor condition of local roads	To improve road safety and the quality of life of those in the Parish	Ensure DCC & Highways team take the necessary actions to repair and maintain the local road network. Investigate & evaluate the possibility of the Parish Council claiming a significantly larger precept to fund its own works on roads, potholes, verges, overgrown hedges, ditches and drainage/flooding problems	Parish Council EDDC	High	Ongoing
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Issues	Aims	Actions	Partners	Priority	Timescale
Large goods vehicles in the Parish	To improve road safety and the quality of life of those in the Parish	Promote measures to reduce large vehicles using narrow lanes, except for local access	Parish Council DDC & Highways Team	High	Ongoing
Speeding traffic on narrow lanes	To improve road safety and the quality of life of those in the Parish	Promote measures to reduce speeding traffic, including considering new signage	Parish Council DDC & Highways Team	High	Ongoing
Poor condition of Public Rights of Way ("PROWs")	To improve the condition of existing PROWs in the Parish	Ensure DCC PROW team take the necessary action to bring PROWs in the Parish up to standard & ensure the P3 budget of the Parish Council is fully utilised each year	Parish Council DCC PROW Team	Medium	Medium - term

### Services & Utilities

Problems with recycling in the Parish	To improve the current recycling scheme	Undertake discussions with EDDC, with special regard to plastics recycling, community composting and bulk waste collections	Parish Council EDDC Luppitt Village Hall Mgt Committee	Medium	Medium - term
Problems with provision of broadband in the Parish	To widen the provision of broadband to all households in the Parish	Undertake discussions with BT	British Telecom Parish Council	High	Short term

### Health & Wellbeing

Lack of a GPs surgery in the Parish	To provide easier access to a GP surgery	Undertake discussions with the Blackdown Practice	Parish Council Blackdown Practice	Medium	Medium - term
Reduced contact with local Police	To increase contact and increase police presence in the Parish	Undertake discussions with local police & investigate re-establishing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the Parish	Parish Council Devon & Cornwall Police	High	Medium - term

### Amenities

Lack of a "heart of the village"	To establish a heart of the village through a new or modified existing commercial enterprise, such as a shop/post office	Undertake discussions with local businesses & investigate feasibility of a commercial venture	Parish Council Otter Brewery The Luppitt Inn Luppitt Village Hall Mgt Committee	Medium	Long-term
Diversity of activities taking place in the Parish	To further increase the cultural, sporting and children-related events in the Parish	Undertake discussions with the local groups identified as relevant Partners	Parish Council Luppitt Village Hall Mgt Committee Youth Club Soft Play Group St Mary's Church	Medium	Long - term



**St. Mary's Church**  
**Luppitt**  
 Services  
 Holy Communion 11  
 Family Service  
 Matins  
 Evensong  
 Vicar  
*M. P. ...*  
 Churchwardens  
*P. ...*

