

SHUTE PARISH PLAN

Comprising: Shute, Whitford, Umborne, Seaton Junction and Hampton.

REPORT



2011



Shute & Whitford
Parish Council

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Abbreviations:

DCC	= Devon County Council
EDDC	= East Devon District Council
CCD	= Community Council of Devon
CA	= The Countryside Agency
AONB	= Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
D&CP	= Devon & Cornwall Police
PCC	= Parochial Church Council
DWT	= Devon Wildlife Trust
RECs	= Renewable Energy Companies
STAG	= Shute heater and Arts Guild
OFSTED	= Office for Standards in Education

Front Page: The Gatehouse at Shute Barton

Issued Spring 2012, review date 2016

Introduction

In 2010, residents of Shute Parish were asked to fill in a questionnaire, the purpose of which was to seek the views of everyone in the parish by collecting up-to-date and accurate information on conditions, opinions and lifestyles in the area.

The resulting Parish Plan, developed by a group of Parish volunteers who represent the local community of Shute, Whitford, Seaton Junction, Umborne and Hampton, provides a detailed survey of life in our parish today and will become an important historical record for the future. It is now possible to identify what we value, what we want to preserve and what we would like to change.

This Plan will be used as a point of reference when seeking funds or assistance from outside agencies. It will be a document adopted by Shute Parish Council and used by East Devon District Council and Devon County Council when making decisions which affect us all.

Thank you to all those people who took the time to complete their questionnaires and to all those who helped in so many ways. We hope you find the resulting document both interesting and useful.

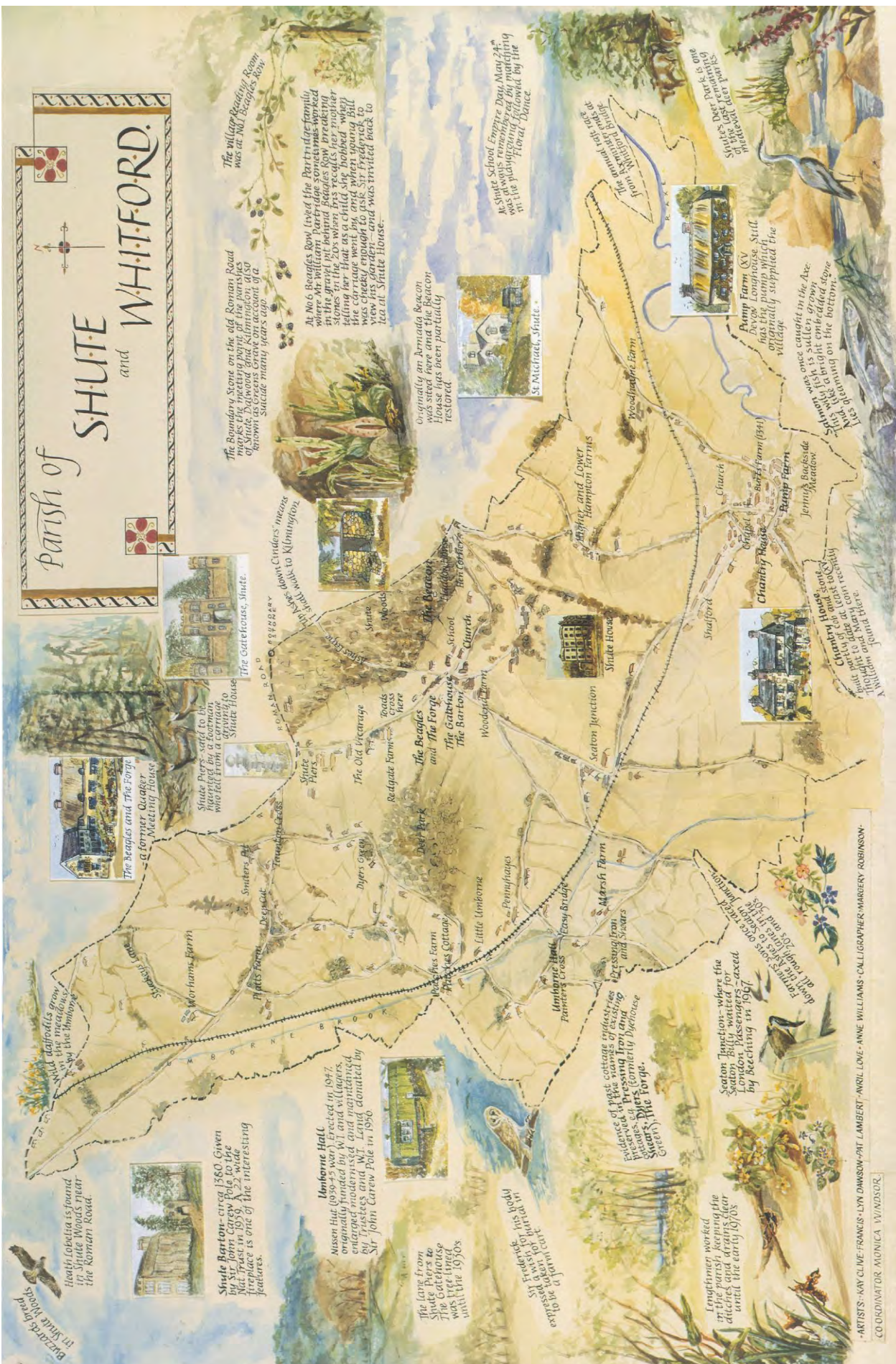
With grateful thanks

*Gail Nunan
(Chairperson)*



Post Script:

This introductory letter was written by Gail Nunan before she sadly passed away on the 28th October 2011. We would like to dedicate this Parish Plan Report to her memory, as a way of thanking her for all she did for the Parish of Shute in so many different ways.



Parish of SHUTE and WHITFORD.



In Shute Wood
Burdock seed
Health obedia is found
in Shute Woods near
the Korman Road.

The Beagles and The Forge
a former Meeting House
Shute Piers said to be
haunted by a footman,
who left from a driving to
Shute House

The Gatehouse, Shute.
The Boundary Stone on the old Roman Road
of Shute, Dalwood and Kilmington, also
known as Green's Grave on account of a
Saxons many years ago.

Shute Barton: circa 1360. Given
by Sir John Carew to the monks of
Barnstaple. It is a 22 wide
place is one of the interesting
features.

Unborne Hall
located in 1947.
originated and designed by W.I. and W.L. Carew,
but Trustees and W.I. Land donated by
Sir John Carew Pole in 1950

The Lane from
Shute Piers to
The Gatehouse
was tree lined
until the 1970s

Sir Frederic's body
was buried in
expressed to be a formal cause

Evidence of the cottage industries
preserved in the villages of Shute,
Sewar, The Forge,
Sewar, The Forge.

Longhorn worked
the parish, keeping the
fields and drains clear
until the early 1970s

Seaton Junction: where the
Seaton Passengers - axed
for beeching in 1961

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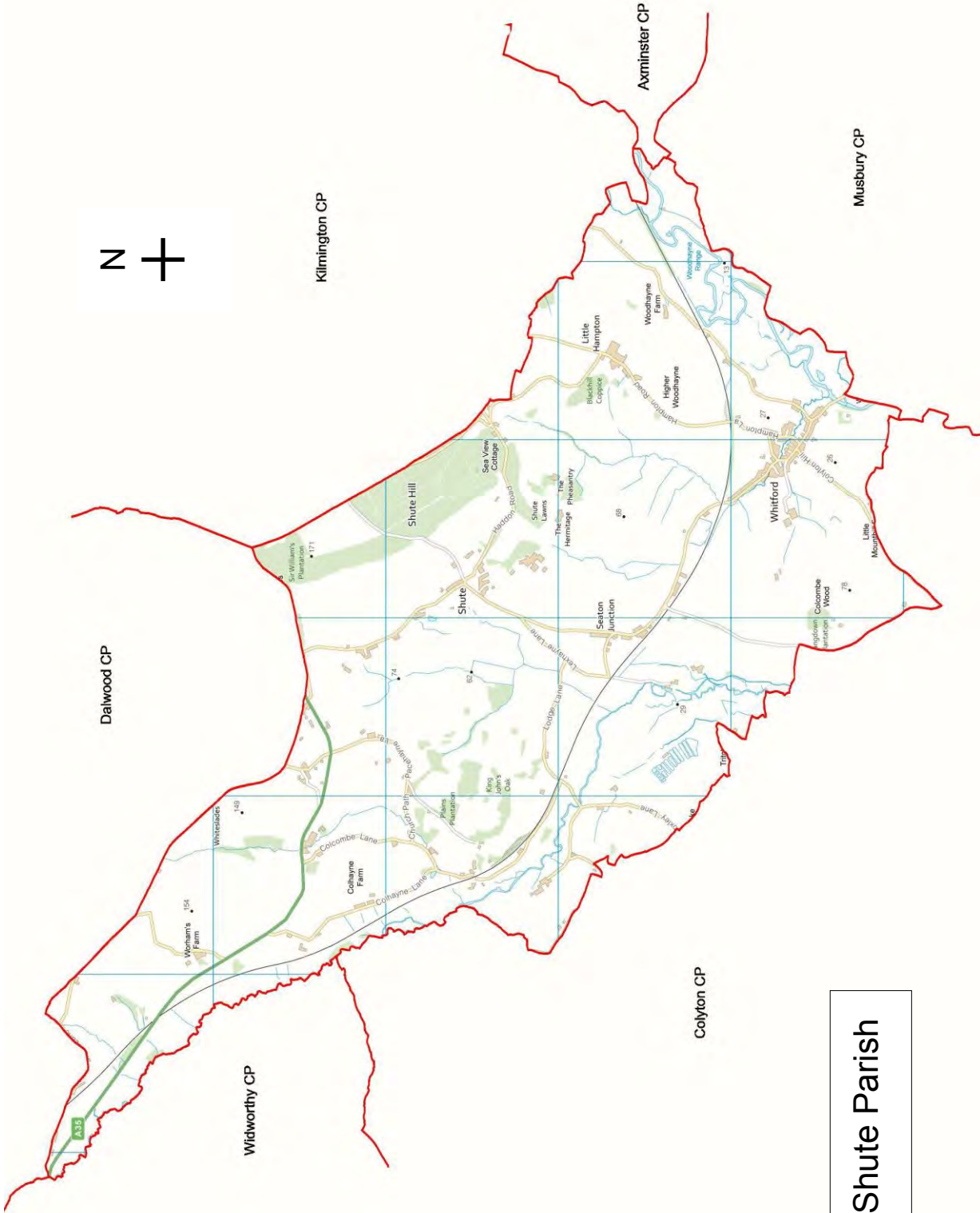
Seaton Passengers - axed
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Seaton Passengers - axed
for beeching in 1961

ARTISTS: KAY CLIVE-FRANKS, LYN DAWSON-PAUL LAMBERT, ANJOL LOVE, ANNE WILLIAMS, CALLIGRAPHER: MARGERY ROBINSON.
COORDINATOR: MONICA WINDSOR.

Shute and Whitford Parish Map



Map of Shute Parish

The Parish of Shute

Shute Parish is situated in the East Devon District Council Area, within the County of Devon and in the Tiverton & Honiton Parliamentary Election Constituency. It has five centres of population with 518 registered voters: Shute (123), Whitford (211), Umborne (90), Seaton Junction (39) and Hampton (32) and outlying areas (23). The total population, in 257 properties, is over 600 people. Shute Parish lies within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and there were and still are numerous productive farms, mostly down to pasture for livestock.



It is thought that the name **Shute** derived from an old English word “Sceat” probably meaning “parklands on a hill side”. The earliest recorded owners of the land at Shute were the Des Schetes, early in the 13th Century and the first recorded dweller of the manor was Sir William Bonville, the builder of the original Manor House in about 1380, during the reign of Richard II.



In 1787 much of the house was pulled down and used for the new Shute House about a quarter of a mile away. The old Shute House became a tenanted farmhouse or Barton. The Bonvilles, then the Greys (Lady Jane Grey's family), and later the Poles, who are descended from the Bonvilles, between them had owned the Shute estates, with only one short break, for nearly six hundred years. Shute Barton was given to the National Trust in 1959 and is now available for holiday rental.



Shute Barton (Old Shute House)

St. Michael's Church in Shute is a beautiful old building. It is believed that there may have been a Saxon Church on this site, but, as there are no written records to confirm this prior to the year 1205, the history of St. Michael's must start there. The builders of Shute Chapel, taking as their model the mother church of Colyton, erected a cruciform building with an Early English centre tower. The stone used is dressed flint, and the exterior features of the building are mainly of perpendicular style.



St. Michael's Church



The Flower Festival creates a floral delight

The church has several handsome monuments of the Poles, one of which is a fine marble statue of Sir William Pole in full dress, as master of Queen Anne's household.



Peter Rugg, Chairman of the Parish Council

Whitford is situated on the west bank of the River Axe and is the largest village in the parish. Historical facts: in 1086 there was an established manor of Whitford (the name originates from the ford - "White Friars Ford – named after a White Friars community that existed locally) mentioned in the Domesday Book. In 1356 it was granted to Hugh de Courtenay of Colyton and was held by the Courtenay family until 1554 when it was bought by Edward Petre, along with Shute Estate. In 1524 a Chantry at Whitford was founded. The name Whitford did not, however, appear on local maps until the early 19th Century.



St Mary at the Cross Chapel, Whitford

The village has a small church: St Mary's at the Cross, a modern chapel of ease built in 1908, and some attractive thatched cottages, one of which is an old Devon long house by the name of Pump Farm. Today, Whitford has a regular bus service linking Axminster and Seaton and a busy village hall which has a bar licence and holds a variety of sporting, social and educational events. There are annual canoe and raft races from Whitford to Seaton on the River Axe and the Produce Association hold annual summer and autumn flower, vegetable and craft shows.

Seaton Junction. Originally named "Colyton for Seaton" the station opened on 19 July 1860 on completion of the Exeter Extension of the London and South Western Railway. With the opening of the Seaton & Beer Railway on 16 March 1868, the name was changed to "Colyton Junction", before finally becoming "Seaton Junction" on 18 July 1869. It was reconstructed in 1928 with two through tracks on the main line and loops to the newly extended platforms. British Railways closed the Seaton to Seaton Junction branch line and station as part of the Beeching cuts on 7 March 1966.

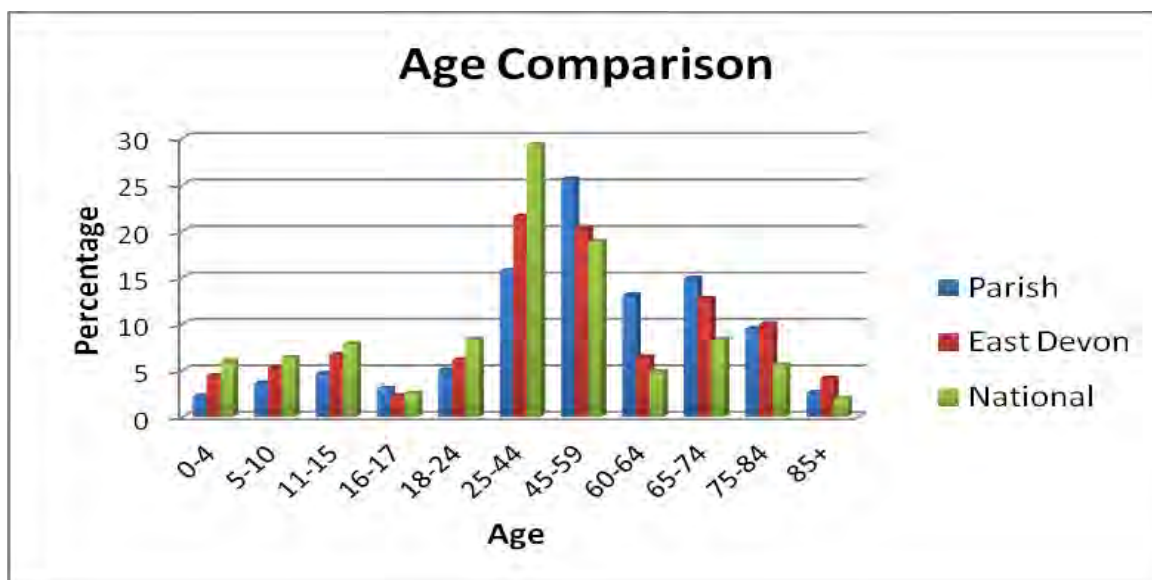
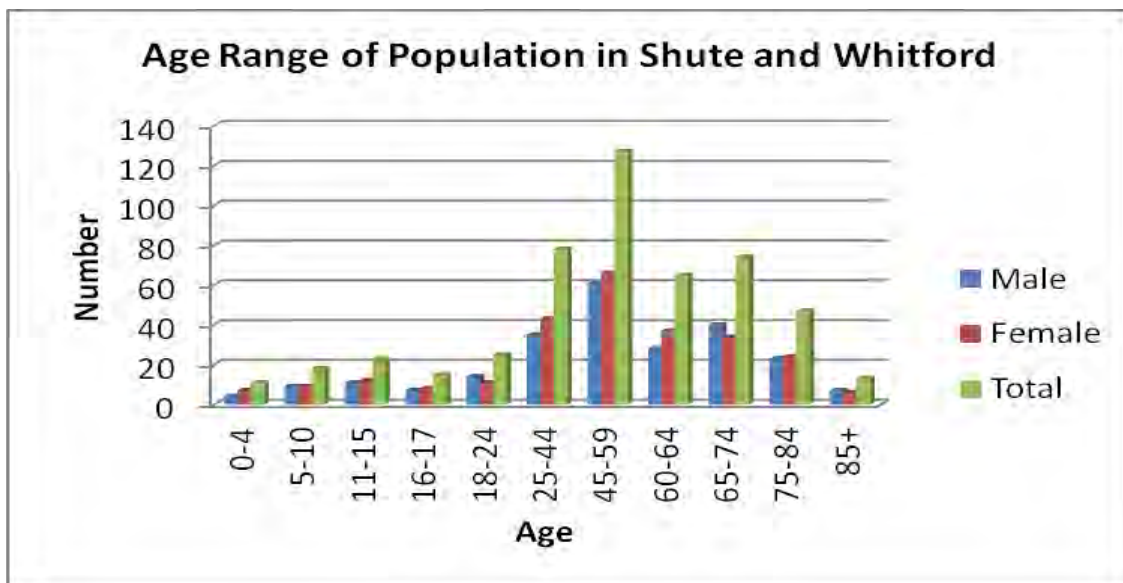


Seaton Junction in its heyday

(From a watercolour painting by Frederick Lea GRA, a well-known painter of railway scenes)

Population

281 questionnaires were distributed to all residents by volunteers in March 2010, of which 215 were returned for analysis - a response rate of 76.5%. This is a high response compared with other parishes and reflects the residents' feeling of involvement in the community (an expected average response rate for a parish of this size would be 60-70%). The returned anonymous questionnaires covered 494 residents, over 82%, of the parish. The figures indicate that the average age of inhabitants is 45.09 years. In East Devon as a whole the average is 45.58 and nationally 38.60. Females outnumber males up to the age of 75+, after which numbers equalise.



(ONS Data 2001 census)

There is a very stable population with 61% having been in the Parish for between 1 and 15 years and a further 33% for even longer. However, there is still movement into the Parish with 5% having been here less than a year.



Water and Drainage

Of those who responded, 13 households have a private water supply, mainly in Shute and Umborne. 201 households are on the mains supply and of those, 108 have their supplies metered. 96 households are on mains drainage (mainly Whitford and Seaton Junction) whilst 103 have septic tanks, 11 use soakaways and 13 have their own treatment system. Again, this reflects the rural nature of the Parish.



Transport

Traffic Problems

The residents were asked if they felt there were traffic problems in the Parish. Of 199 who replied, 119 felt that there were problems with traffic, 80 felt there were none. The Parish is divided on this point with those in Whitford, Seaton Junction and Shute having a majority reporting problems, whilst in Hampton, Umborne and North of the A35 a majority felt there was no problem. This would seem to coincide with the main through route from the A35 to Whitford. The 209 comments were made on what the residents considered to be the main traffic problems. These were split into 3 main categories:- speed and traffic noise, parking, and large vehicles.

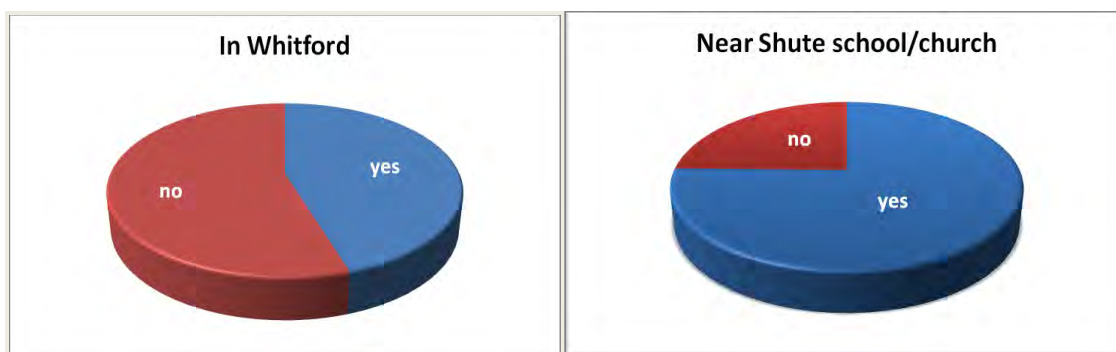
Ninety two comments were made on speed and traffic noise issues. Of these 84 related to speeding and noise on the road from Shute Piers to Whitford with residents from all the centres of population commenting. Other comments on this topic (8) related to Smiters Pit Lane, the A35 and the 7 Mile Straight. 73 comments were made relating to on-street parking problems in the Parish. Of these, 35 related to parking at Shute School, Shute Barton and the Church; 23 concerned parking in Whitford & Shalford Terrace; 10 felt parking at Whitford Village Hall was a problem, 4 related to parking at the Boat Yard and 1 to Bakers Mead.

34 comments voiced concern over large and heavy vehicles coming through the village and using the narrow lanes, with 1 comment relating to the low railway bridge in Whitford causing problems for large vehicles. Other comments referred to the lack of passing places in the lanes of the parish.

When asked how the traffic problems could be solved, speed restrictions were most popular (36%), followed by traffic calming (20%); weight limits (16%); reducing on-road parking (14%) and better signage (14%). Of the additional comments, 68 in total, 23 thought various traffic calming measures should be introduced. These included improved signage, yellow lines, speed limits, weight/width/height restrictions and village gateways, speed humps, repainting road markings, mirrors and a 'tidal' flow. 2 felt there should be no extra signs or village gateway. 13 considered there should be regular speed checks and more enforcement by the authorities. 7 felt there should be a parking area at Shute School/Barton/Church and 2 felt lift-sharing should be encouraged. In Whitford 5 believed there should be more parking available at the Hall, 1 thought the Hall should be moved and 2 felt the car park could be used when the hall is empty.

Parking

Residents were asked "Is there a need for community parking near Shute School / Shute Barton / Shute Church and in Whitford?"



86 comments were received on this question, the majority concerning Shute. Of these, 55 related specifically to the purchase of land and/or expanding the parking at or adjacent to Shute School/Barton/Church. This included suggestions for compulsory purchase of land or a council grant to procure the land, using the present grassed area at the school and expanding the present

National Trust Car Park. 6 comments made suggestions for improvements such as a mini bus for the school run or a walking bus or parking time limit. An additional 5 suggested a roadside lay-by but did not specify where.

There were 12 comments supporting a village car park in Whitford, with 5 suggestions to use land at the Pound, Village Hall or Whitford bridge. There were also suggestions (2) for car parking to be available near Shalford Terrace and Seaton Junction.

State of Roads

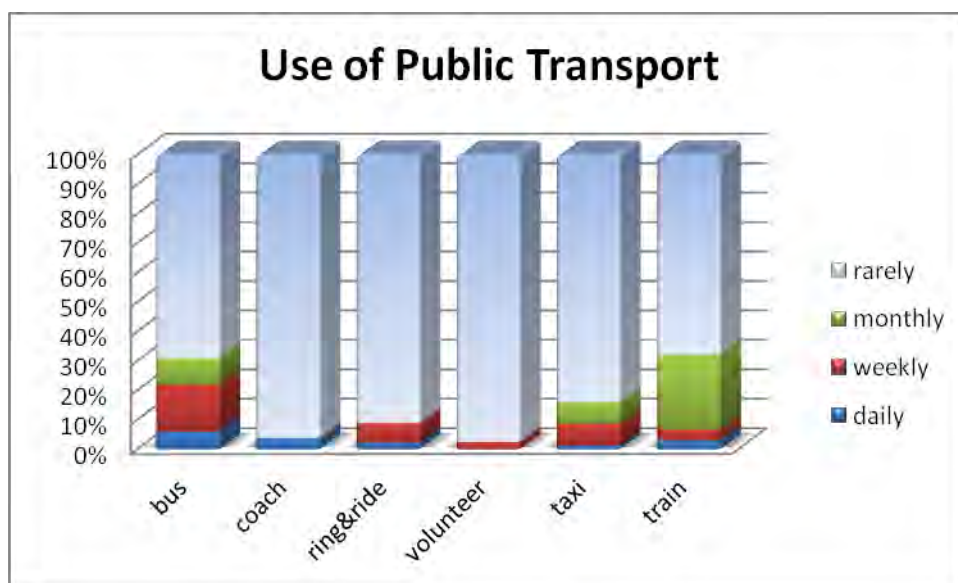
The residents were asked whether they felt the roads in the Parish were in a good state.



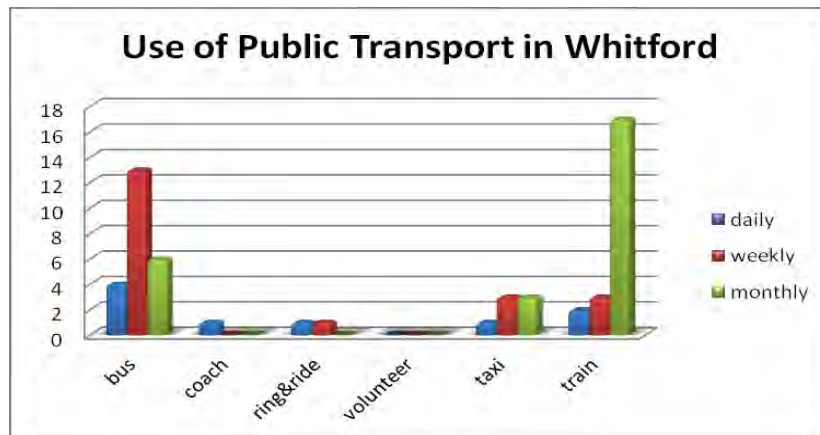
213 responded to this question. Of these, 81% felt that they are poor or unsatisfactory. Most of those who felt that the roads were satisfactory were in Shute, Whitford and Seaton Junction which could reflect the classification of the road. Those in Umborne, Hampton and north of the A35 were less satisfied.

Public Transport Use

A question asked what type of public transport people used and how often.



This question again showed the Parish to be completely split. In Umborne, Hampton and North of A35 there was virtually no use of public transport at all apart from one or 2 train or bus journeys monthly. Whitford was the main centre of public transport use with 9 residents using it daily and a further 20 using it on a weekly basis.



Bus Usage



There were 270 responses to this question. There is much support for more frequent services, more routes and stops and shelters. Pure lack of information on bus services could be preventing more residents from using the bus service that is currently available.

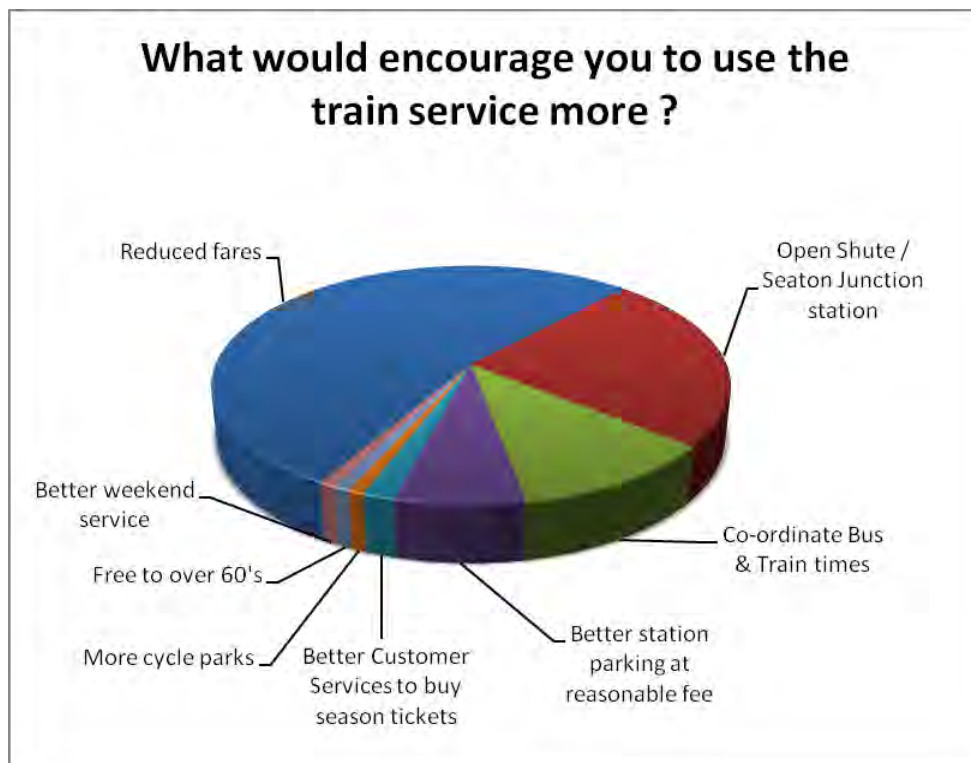


Train Usage



Seaton Junction

N.B. Axminster Station is 5 miles away and Honiton station about 7 miles.



116 comments were received on this question. 53% felt that cost was a factor in their usage of the train and 24 % thought the reopening of Seaton Junction station would encourage them to use the train more.

Car Sharing

Nearly 50% of the households that responded would consider joining a car sharing scheme for the purposes shown in the chart.



Action Plan

Concern	Action	Action by	Priority	Time scale
Traffic speed and noise especially between Shute Piers & Whitford	Reduce speed and noise by increased monitoring	PC EDDC DCC DCC Police DCC Highways	High	Short Term
Parking at Shute School and Church – also at Whitford Village Hall	Procure parking spaces by purchase of land	PC EDDC DCC NT	High	Short Term
Poor quality of roads	Ensure potholes and edgings are attended to more regularly	PC EDDC DCC Highways Parishioners to report	High	Short Term
Reduced fares on Public Transport	Survey the needs of the community and assess information	PC Bus Companies Train Companies Ring and Ride	Medium	Medium term

Housing

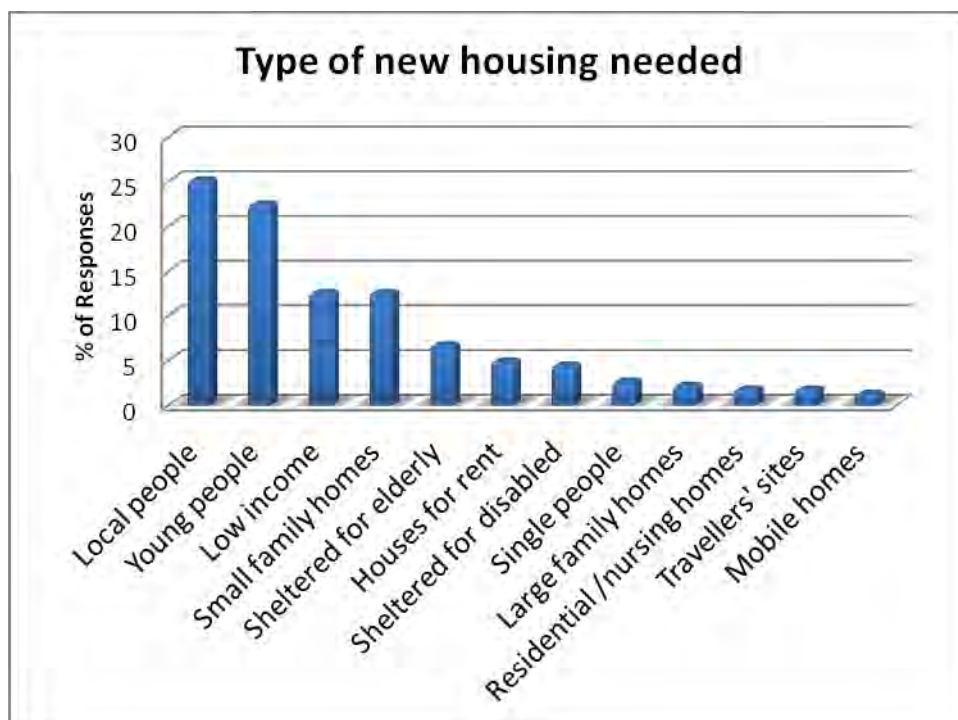


Pump Farm, Whitford

Residents were asked “Is there a need for new housing in the area and if so, of what type?”

180 of the households responded to this question, of which 66% felt there was no need for new housing in the Parish. Of those in Whitford and Shute (a total of 128 households) 75% felt there was no requirement. In Seaton Junction 58% were against, but in Umborne, Hampton and North of the A35 (35 households), 60% were in favour of more housing.

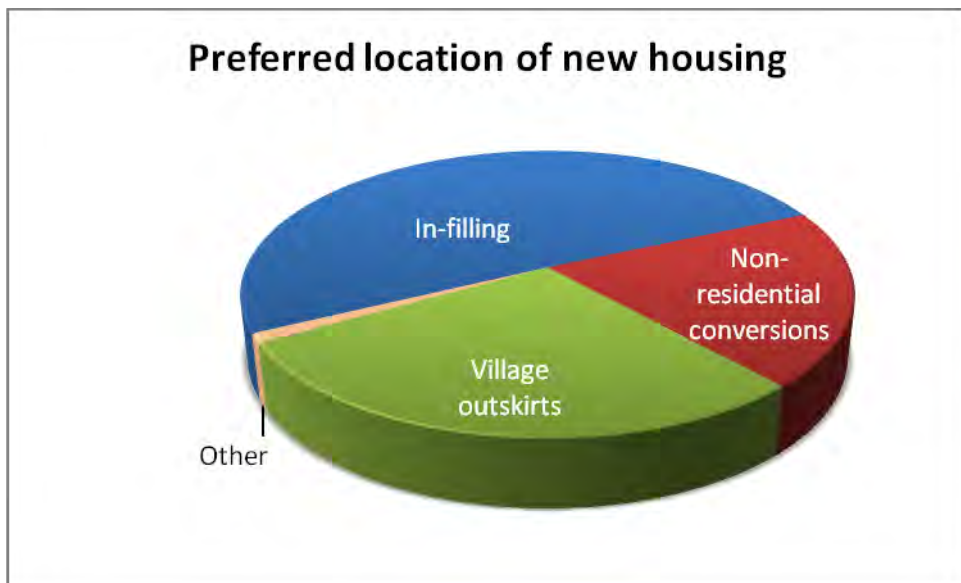
When asked what type of new housing was needed in the Parish, 222 opinions were expressed. These clearly show that if housing were to be built, most felt it should be for local people, young people and for those on a low income. It should be noted that 13% felt there was a need for housing for the disabled and elderly, be it sheltered or residential.





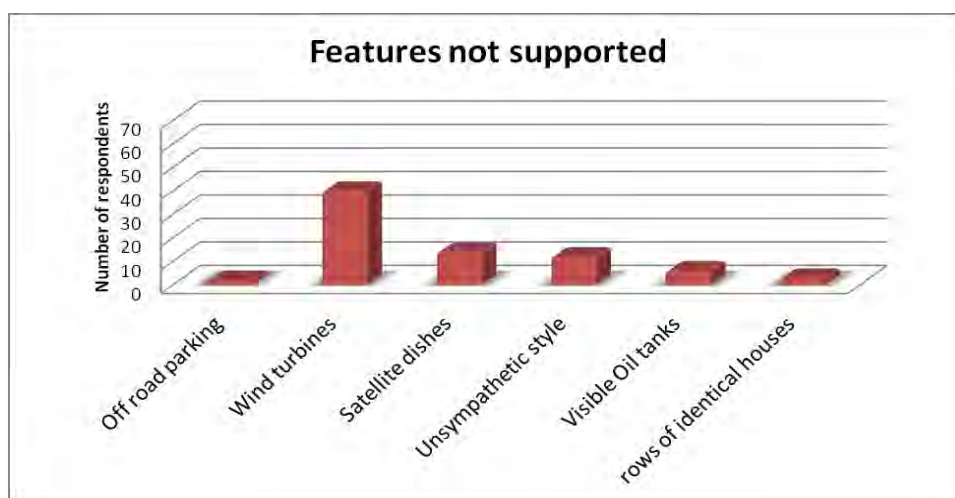
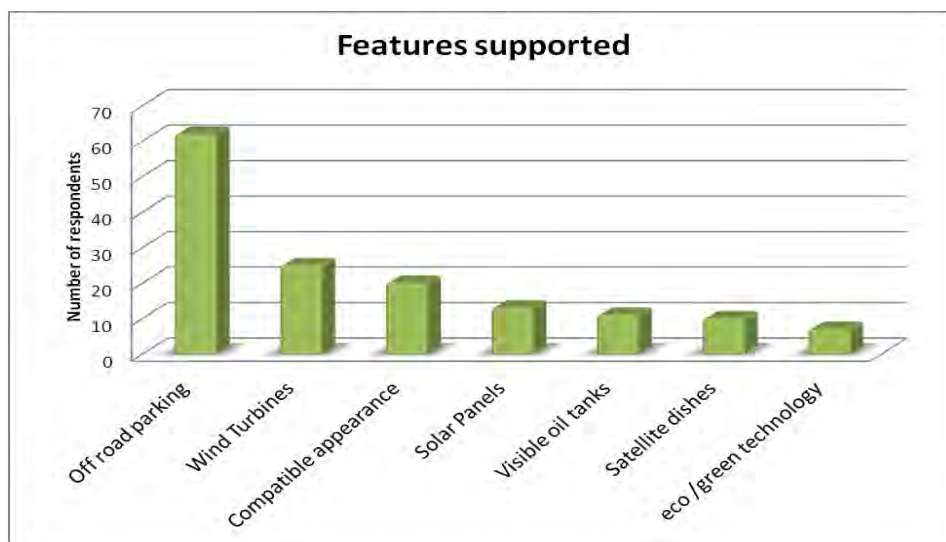
Hampton Court, Whitford

If new houses were to be built, the residents were asked where they should be located.



The residents indicate that most new housing should be by in-filling or on the village outskirts, with strong support for non-residential conversions.

The questionnaire asked what planning features they would support and also those they would not support in planning applications. It is interesting to note that some features are both supported and not supported.

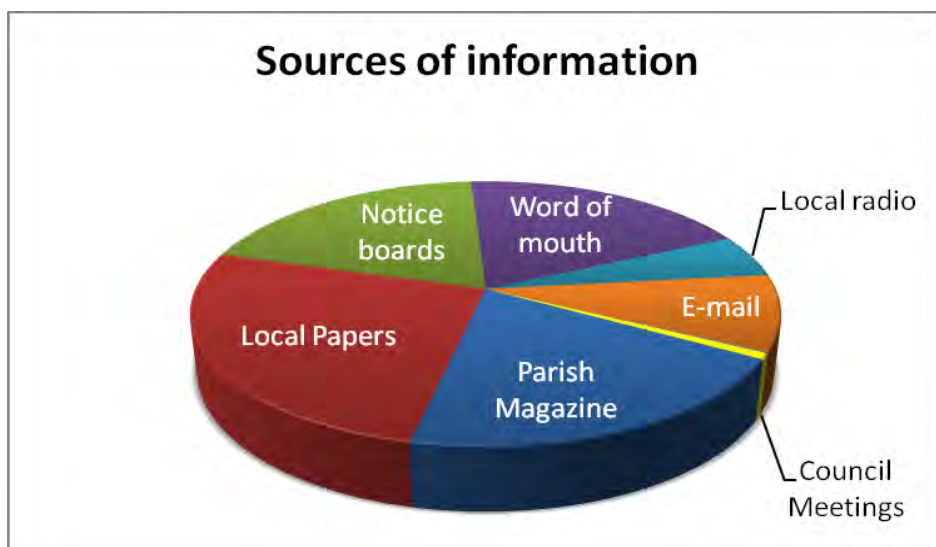


Action Plan

Concern	Action	Action by	Priority	Time scale
Lack of affordable housing for local, young, and low-income families and the elderly.	Conduct a full housing needs survey in the parish.	PC EDDC DCC Rural Housing Trust Help the Aged	High	Short Term
Lack of affordable housing for local, young, and low-income families and the elderly.	Provide affordable housing for all those categories – by in-filling and non-residential conversions within the village boundaries.	PC EDDC DCC Rural Housing Trust	Medium	Medium Term

Communications & Information Technology

Residents were asked what sources of information they used.



It is evident that a wide range of sources of information are used by the residents. However most are written and verbal rather than electronic. Even in this internet age, information from written sources is most important (66%) with a further 19% by word of mouth. E-mails only accounted for 9% and local radio 5%. This has indicated the importance of the notice boards as a method of communication for information.

Local Magazines

Of the 210 replies, 67% received the Parishes Paper (also serving 4 adjacent parishes) and of those who did not, an additional 7% would like to. When asked if the Parish needed its own separate publication, approximately 69% felt that it did not. This confirms the importance of this Magazine as a method of contacting the residents.



Notice Boards

173 regularly look at the notice boards, with only 32 saying they did not read them. This, as with the magazine, confirms their importance in communication within the Parish. 94% found the information displayed on the notice board useful. 30 made comments on what additional information they would like displayed on the boards. This included information on upcoming activities at the Village Halls and the cost of hiring them; bus and mobile library times; information on Council activities (including meetings); advertising for reliable tradesmen and general information.

The main locations suggested for new or improved boards were as below:-

In Whitford Village Hall	Increase size
Pump Farm	New board
Seaton Junction	New board
Bakers Mead	New board
Patches Railway Bridge	Increase size
Umborne Hall	New board
Smiters Pit Lane	New board

The Internet

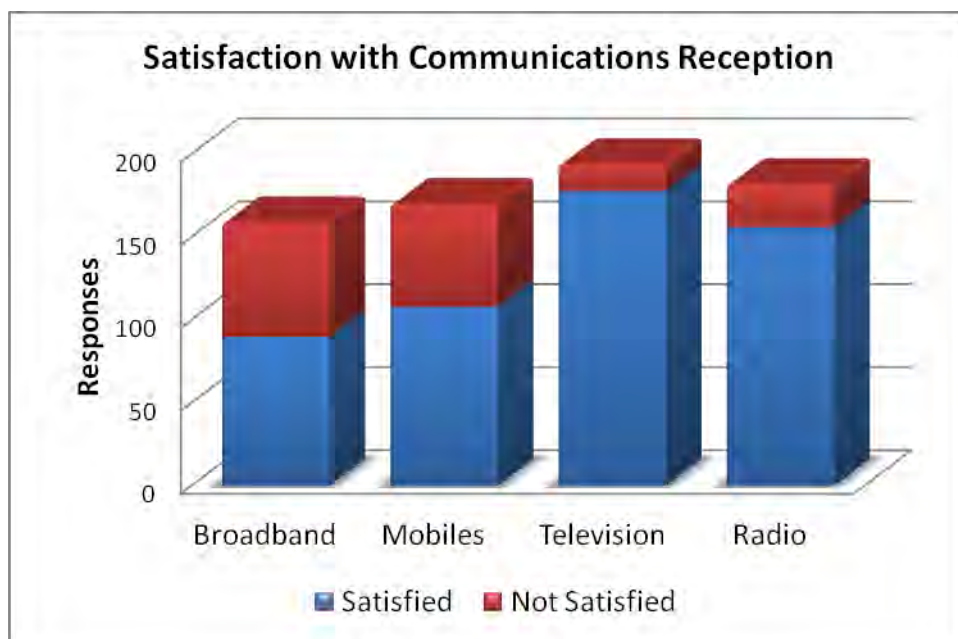
Of the 210 households responding, 75% have internet or e-mail access at home. Of those who expressed an opinion, 65% agreed that a constantly updated Parish website would be useful, with 41% interested in joining a regular e-mail newsgroup.



Telephone Box, Whitford

Reception

The households were asked if they were satisfied with their reception of television, broadband, mobile phones and radio.



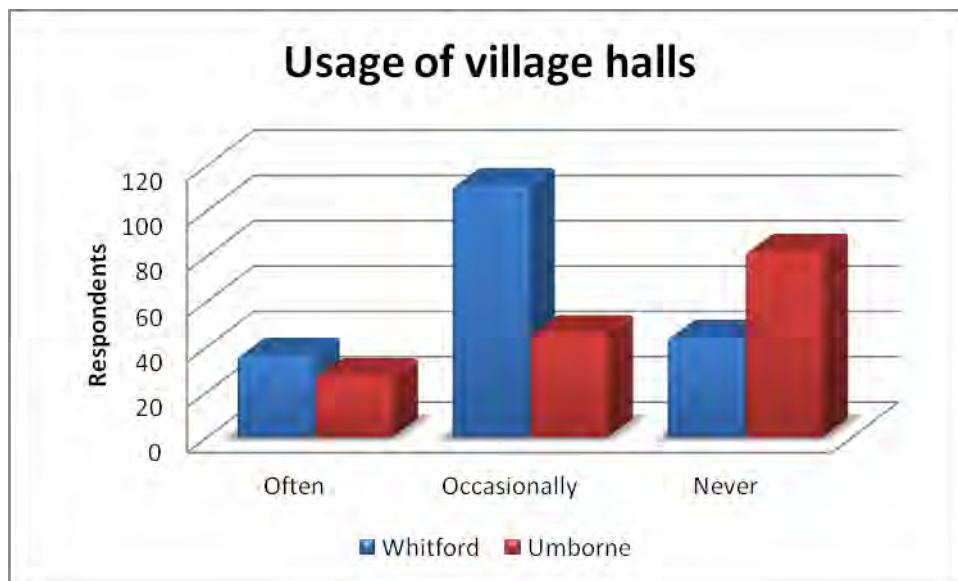
Whilst most are generally satisfied, there are still significant minorities that are not happy with their broadband or mobile reception in the area.

Action Plan

Concern	Action	Action by	Priority	Time scale
Lack of high speed broadband in the parish	Identify the providers and encourage them to improve the service	DCC BT Other Network Providers	High	Short Term
Poor quality of mobile phone reception	Identify providers and encourage them to improve the service	DCC BT Other Network Providers	High	Short Term
Need for more noticeboards in locations mentioned in the Questionnaire answers.	Provide more noticeboards in specific locations	PC Grant Providers	High	Short Term

Leisure

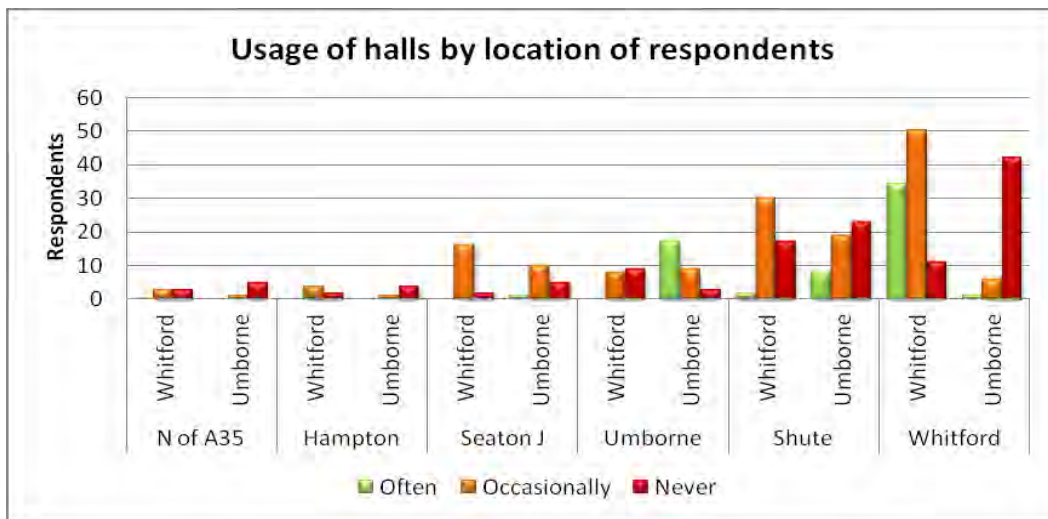
The residents were asked how often they use the Whitford and Umborne Village Halls.



The Halls are relatively well used, especially in Whitford where most respondents use the hall often or occasionally during the year. In Umborne the usage is less universal. This possibly reflects its more isolated location, the scattered population of this part of the Parish and the lack of means for informing the residents of forthcoming events etc. It should also be noted that the survey was taken when a new Hall was being built, replacing the previous war time Quonset Hut, which was functional rather than comfortable. The rebuild also resulted in nearly a year with no activities, when no building was available. Umborne now has a new, impressive hall and usage will undoubtedly increase.



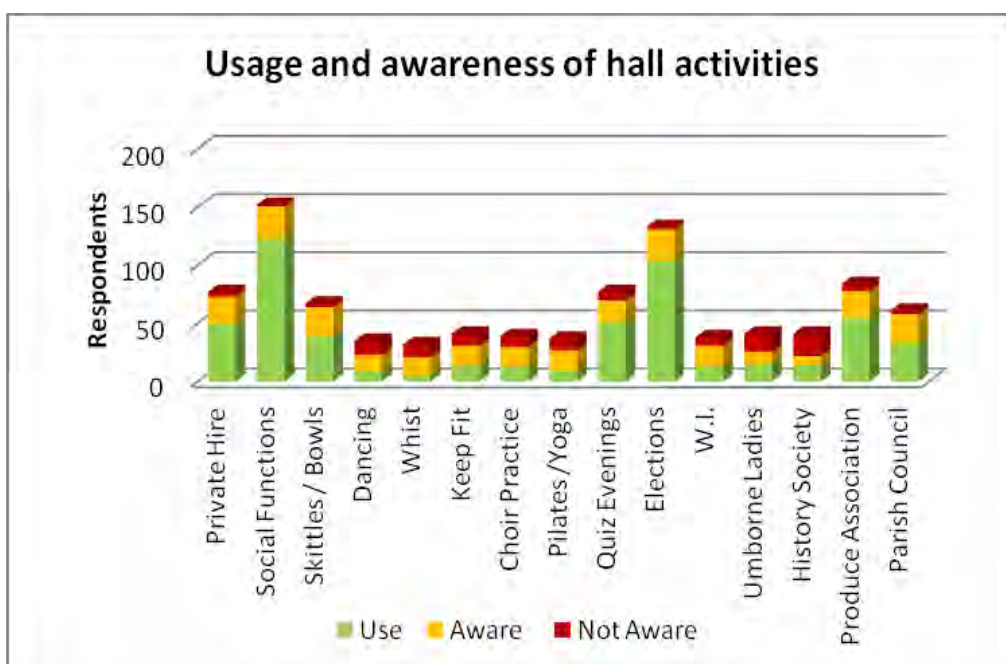
Umborne Village Hall



These responses would indicate that the residents of Shute, Seaton Junction and Umborne are almost equally likely to use either of the halls. Few residents of Whitford ever use the Umborne Hall but are very likely to use their own Hall. It is also evident that the residents North of the A35 and Hampton rarely use either.



Whitford Village Hall



Additional activities suggested by residents :

Educational - Adult Education; Computer Classes; Book/Film Club; One-off Courses; Nature Talks.

Social – music evenings; barbecues; breakfast/lunch/tea clubs, social and bridge clubs; wine and cheese evenings; youth activities /club/centre; singles, games and bar nights; weddings and parties; guiding and scout groups. Of the 33 suggestions made, 12 were for some form of youth activities; 6 for music evenings and 4 each for the breakfast/lunch/tea clubs and regular bar nights.

Arts & Crafts – digital photography; craft fairs; amateur dramatics; travelling players; flower arranging; art classes.

Sporting – dancing in various forms; table tennis; rambling; short-mat bowls; badminton and pilates /yoga keep-fit classes. Of the 12 suggestions 6 were for some form of dance club.

Other Activities – table top sales; visiting health surgery; shop/post office; local produce market; Christmas events and multi-age activities.



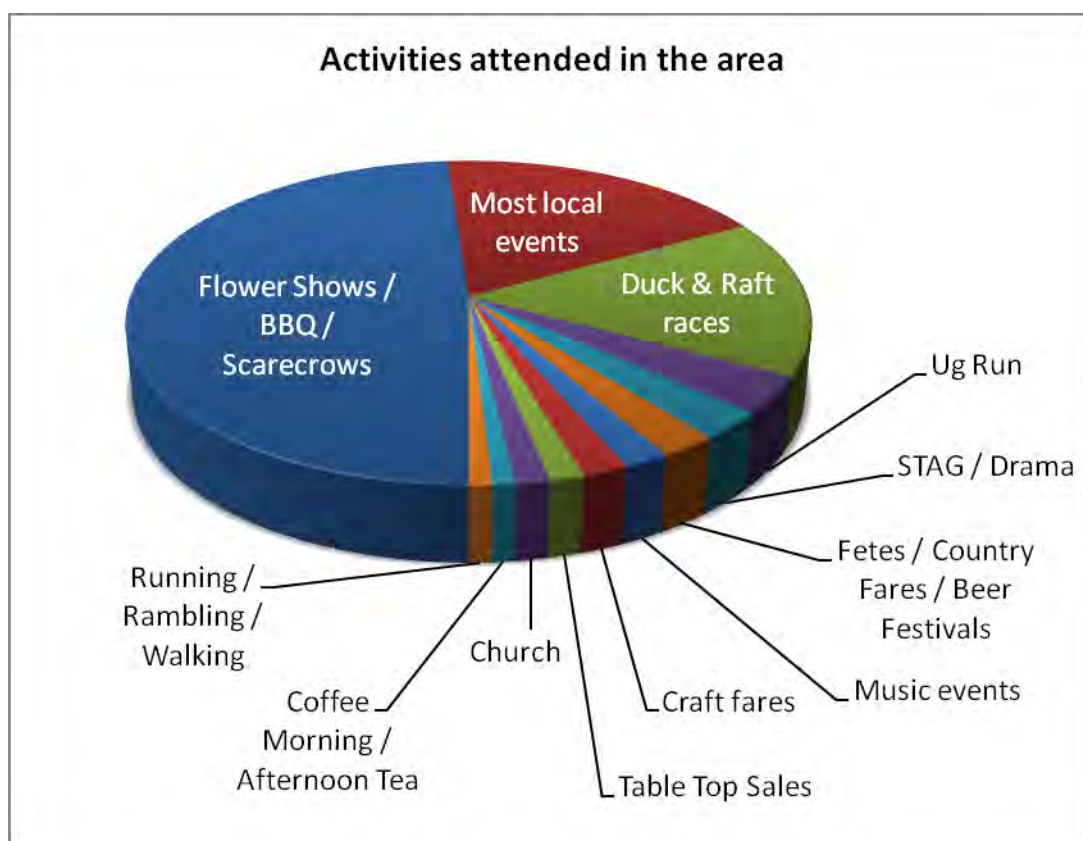
Some of the opinions have been overtaken by events since the questionnaire was sent out. There is now a new Umborne Hall and matters are in hand to improve facilities at the Whitford Hall. Some, such as improving the roads in Umborne, are beyond our remit. There is considered a problem with parking by those in Whitford, Shute and Seaton Junction. With the new car park this is no longer a problem at Umborne Hall. Lack of information was considered of concern in Shute more than the other areas of the Parish.

St Michael's Church, Shute

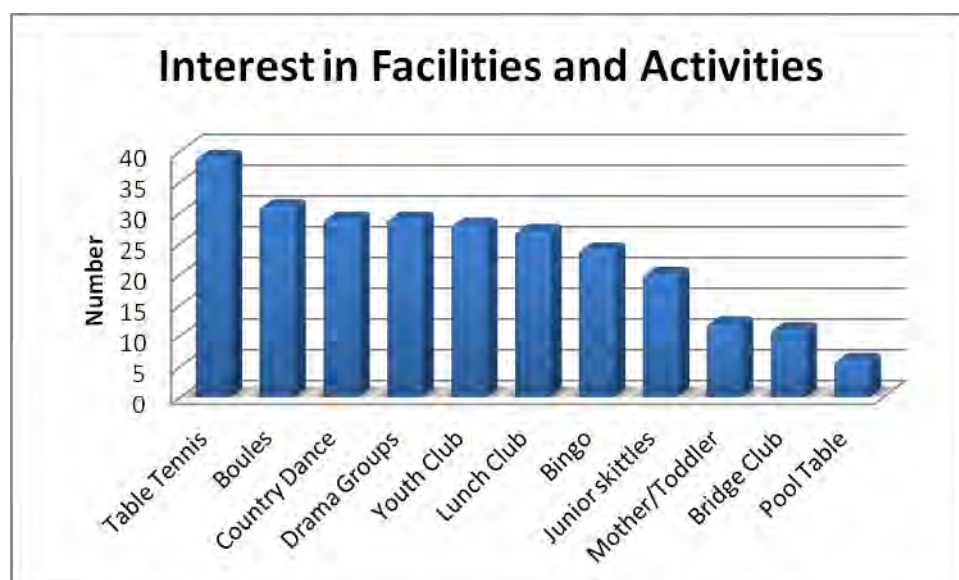
Asked if they would use the Church if there were better facilities such as parking, water and toilets of 168 to respond 59 (35%) felt they would. (Since the survey water and toilet facilities are being installed). When asked if they would be prepared to support improvements through local taxation, of 159 to express an opinion 64 (40%) would. These were then asked how much they would be prepared to pay per year. 24% thought £2 was acceptable, 37% £5 and 39% £10.

General Parish Activities

The residents were asked what activities they attended in the area. The greatest number, 105 households, attend the flower shows, various barbecues and the scarecrow festival.



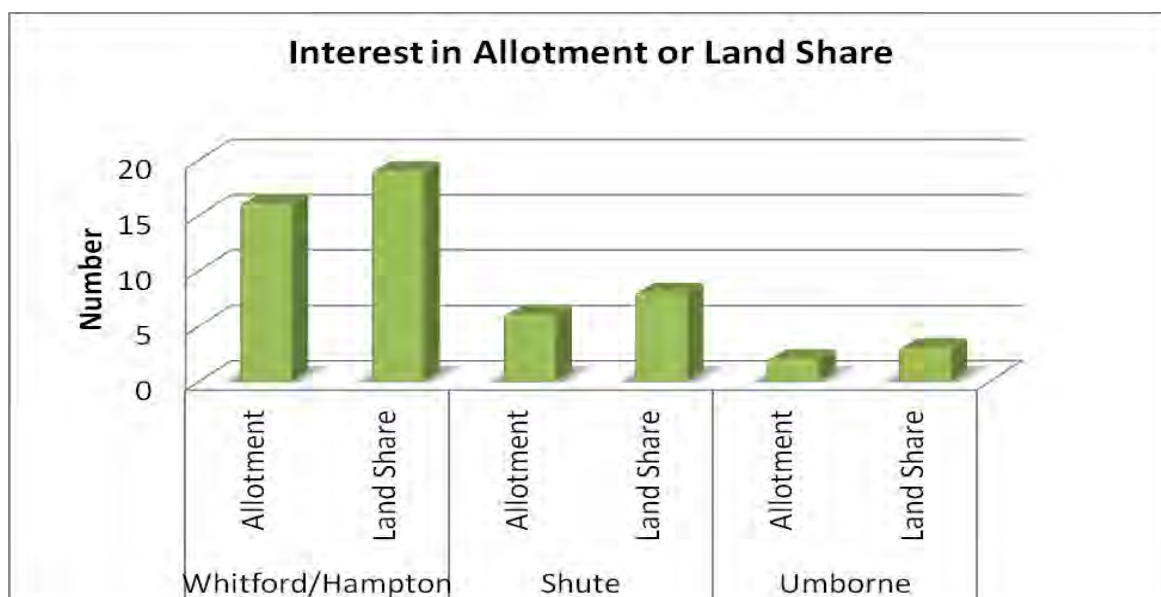
When asked if they would support various activities or facilities, if they were available, the response was as follows:-



This would again indicate that there is a need for more youth provision in the area and that there may also be a need to promote groups that are already in existence. Other activities included various dancing classes, rambling, cookery demonstrations, cricket, rounders, wildlife talks and a breakfast club.

Allotments and land share schemes

In view of the increasing popularity of growing-your-own vegetables, the questionnaire enquired if residents would be interested in renting an allotment in the parish or if they would consider participating in a „Land Share’ scheme.



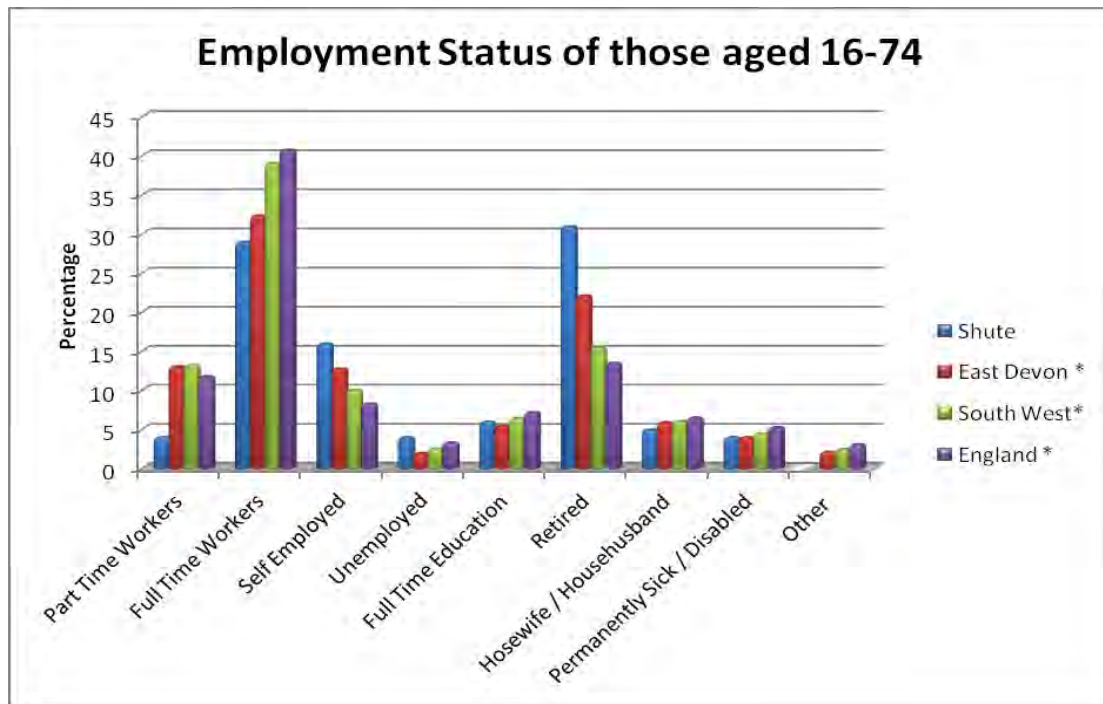
This would seem to indicate that there is sufficient interest to take this suggestion further. There was no interest in either from those living north of the A35.

Action Plan

Concern	Action	Action by	Priority	Time scale
Lack of awareness of activities in the parish	Improve publicity of such activities by using email groups, websites and noticeboards	PC Hall Committees Local Societies	High	Short Term
Need for a wider range of activities	Provide a wider range of activities	Hall Committees Local Societies	High	On-going
Lack of facilities at Shute Church	Improve parking and install toilets and running water (see page 23)	PCC PC DAC	High	Short Term
Lack of facilities for the under 18's	Develop facilities for youth activities	PC EDDC DCC	High	Short Term
Need for allotments and landshare schemes	Investigate the feasibility of such schemes and locate possible sites	PC DCC Whitford Produce Association	Medium	Medium Term

Business

The residents were asked what was their employment status.



(*ONS data 2001 census)



Those unemployed accounted for 4% of the total which is exactly the average for East Devon. This compares to the South West as a whole which varies from approximately 4% to 8.8% (ONS data July 2009 – June 2010). Those retired make up 32% of the respondents which is above the regional and national average. The 21 „self employed and employing others’ employ a total of 186 people. When asked where was the main place of work / education for the majority in the household; of 133 responses, 20% advised at home; 7% in the parish and 73% outside the parish.



Lyme Bay Winery, Seaton Junction

When asked what type of business development they would prefer within the Parish, the respondents were in favour of new local shops and B & B's / guest houses. They did not want, or had reservations about new tourism developments; industrial units; caravan / camp sites and holiday cottages.



The Parish still has a high proportion of workers in the agricultural sector but this is balanced by high proportions in the „professional’ and „other’ sectors. Of those who voiced an opinion, most felt that the Parish Council could probably do little to help their business. Others suggested good links to the internet, campaigning for better Broadband and a reward card scheme for use at local businesses would assist. When asked if the local businesses fit well within the community / environment, 42% felt they did, with a further 40% not having an opinion, which would seem to indicate that they generally do fit well.

Of the 191 people who responded to the question “does anyone in your household perform voluntary work ?”; 45% did. There is a huge variety of organisations helped by a small population !

Organisations helped by the voluntary work of residents of the Parish.

Abbeyfield	Age Concern	Axe Vale FORCE committee	Axminster Museum/ Heritage	British Legion
British Trust for Ornithology	Citizens Advice Bureau	Cancer care	Charity Shop	Church
Cinnamon Trust	Devon Air Ambulance Trust	Flamingo Pool	Friends in the Community	Guiding UK
Home Start	University of the 3 rd Age	Hospicecare	Hospital League committee	Hospital visiting
LIONS	NT guide	Old folk entertainment	Parish Council	Pets as Therapy
Political	Prison Charity Worker	Red Cross	Residential Home	Riding for disabled
Rivers Associations	School governor	School helper	Scouts	St. Bosco camp (Essex)
St. John Ambulance	Sunday school teacher			

Action Plan

Concern	Action	Action by	Priority	Time scale
Need for local shop(s)	Explore the possibilities of opening a community shop.	PC CCD Other Community shops	Medium	Long term
Need for more B & B's and guest houses	Investigate the need for an expansion of tourist accommodation	PC EDDC CCD AONB	Medium	Long Term

Education

Schools attended by children (numbers in brackets) in the Parish at the time of survey (Spring 2010).

3 pre-schools - Shute Little Acorns (3); Colyton Caterpillars (1) and Seaton Ruperts (1).

8 primary schools – Shute (6); Manor House* (4); All Saints (3); Musbury (2) and Seaton, Colyton, Beer and Dalwood* with 1 child each.

* Both schools have closed since the survey was undertaken.

5 secondary schools – Axe Valley (15); Colyton (8); Woodroffe (4), Maynard’s, Exeter (2) and St Johns, Sidmouth (1)

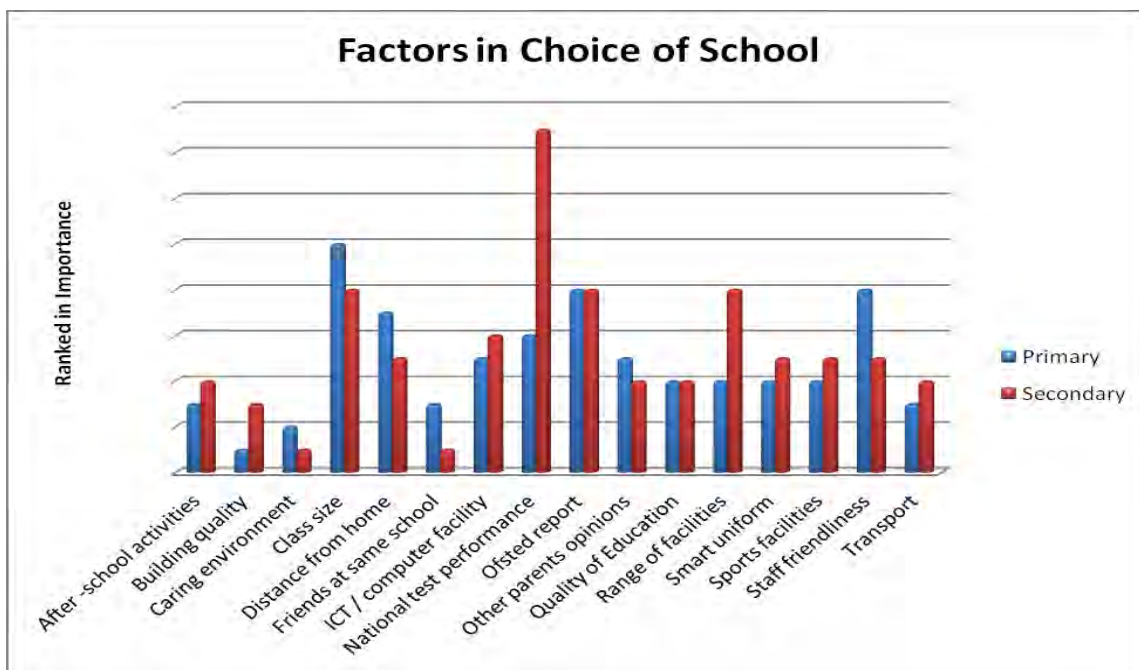
Of the 158 replies, 94% felt it was important to have a school in the Parish with 72% of them feeling there should be more interaction between the school and the community.



Shute Community Primary School

The most important factors in choosing a primary school were class size followed by staff friendliness, OFSTED report, distance from home and national test performance.

The most important factors in choosing a secondary school were the national test performance followed by class size, OFSTED report, range of facilities, distance from home and staff friendliness.



When asked if there was a need for more adult education classes in the area, 56% felt there was. The most requested classes were for Computers / IT and Crafts followed by Art, Foreign Languages, Digital Photography and Upholstery. Only 16% of respondents felt there was a need for vocational training in the local area.



Mobile Library in Whitford

Action Plan

Concern	Action	Action by	Priority	Time scale
There should be more interaction between Shute Primary School and the community	Encourage more interaction between the school and the community and vice versa	PC Shute Primary School Shute Church	High	Short Term
Other concerns: Parking and Adult Education	These have been dealt with in other sections			

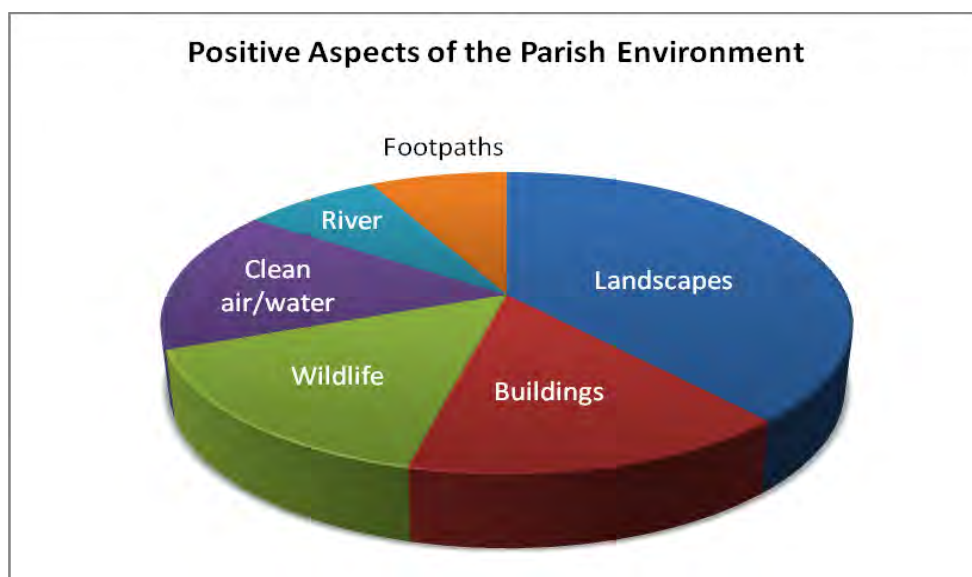
Environment

55% of the residents felt the appearance of the Parish is good, 41% reasonable and only 4% poor. 95 respondents made comments on the Parish. Many felt the appearance was excellent in most aspects. Others complained of the untidiness in various locations such as run-down farmhouses / derelict farm buildings, the boat yard and workshops at Seaton Junction and car sales on the A35. They also felt the river bank and common land was neglected and that the roads and drains were not maintained properly.

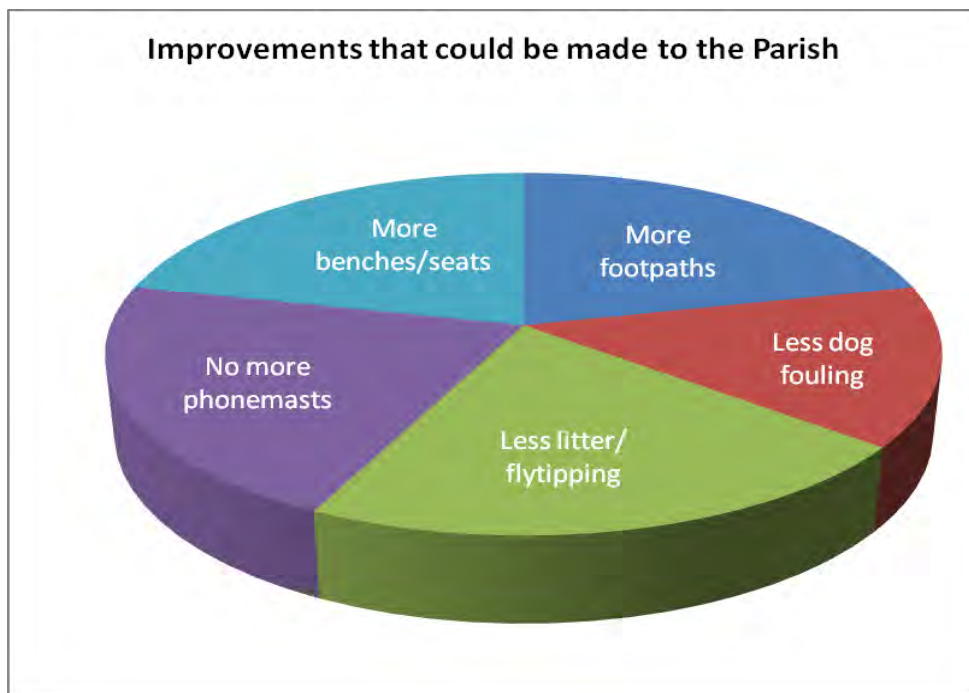


King John's Oak near Shute

When questioned on the positive aspects of the Parish environment, the landscape is the most treasured part. Amongst the comments made about the Parish were that it is a fantastic place in which to live; it has a good community spirit; there is little light pollution and it is quiet. Others felt it is important to keep the landscape as it is, but more signage for footpaths would help.



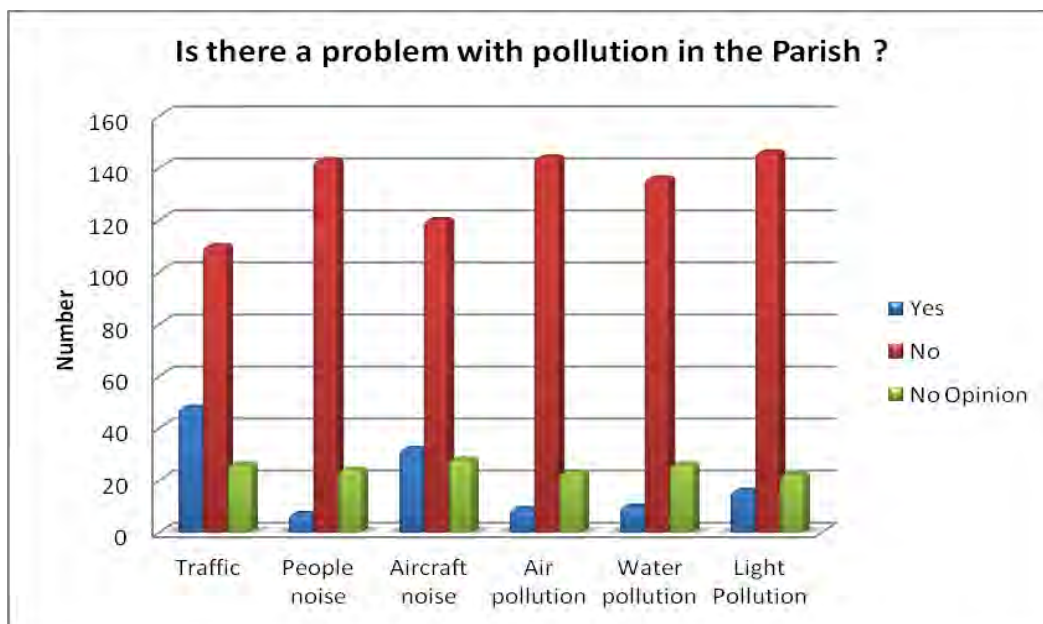
When asked what would improve or enhance the environment in the Parish, the opinions were quite evenly divided between the various options, with a reduction in fly tipping and litter being the most important.



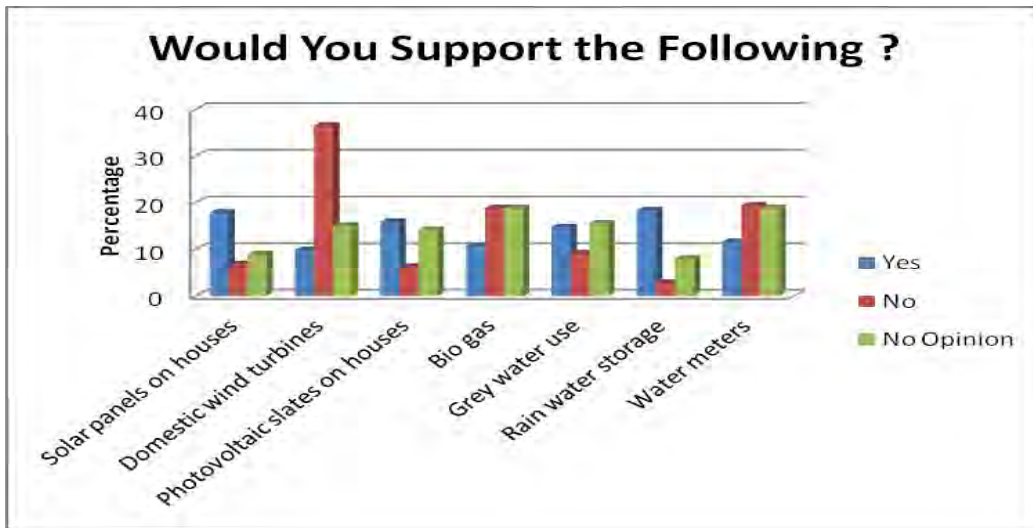
Other suggestions for improvements were for more dog mess-and-litter bins; better bridle paths; a dry footpath to Colyton and Musbury (from Whitford); improvements in drainage and a better service from the Devon County Council Parish Lengthsman.

Pollution

Most do not feel that there is a problem with pollution within the Parish but significant minorities feel that there are problems with traffic and aircraft noise.

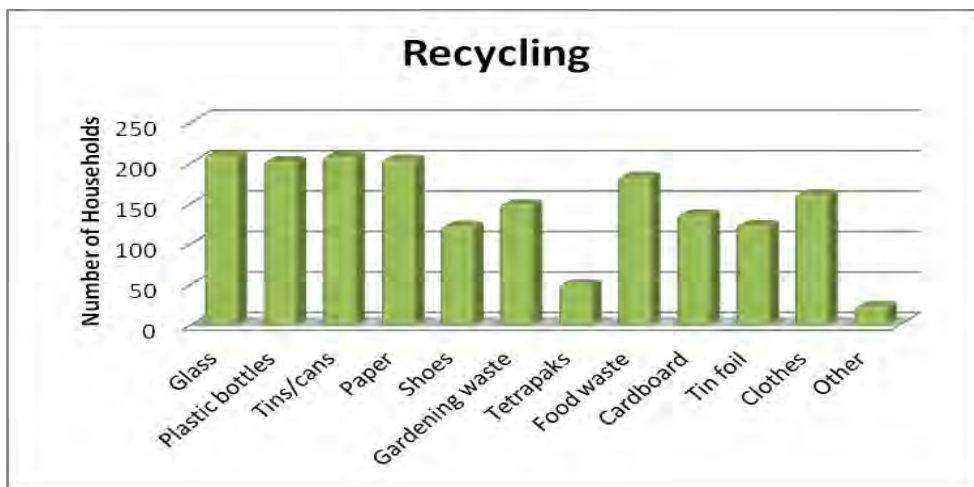


When asked what measures to reduce pollution they would support in the Parish, the responses were mainly positive with only domestic wind turbines being contentious. 55% would appreciate being given more information or advice on energy saving schemes.



Waste Control / Recycling

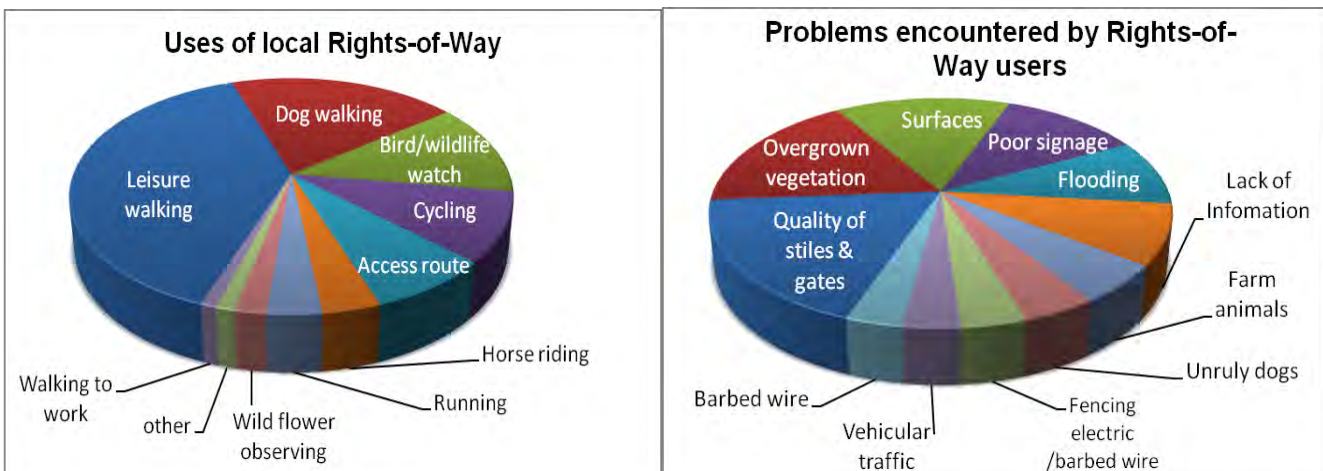
A very high proportion of the respondents recycle household waste items when possible.



Of the comments made, most wanted cardboard and tetrapac recycling, although 23% do already recycle tetrapac cartons. This suggests a lack of communication to the public. Others wanted more categories recycling; some complained that the recycling team do not always call; some were concerned about the distance to the recycling centre in Wilmington and that the elderly find it hard to cope. When asked, 20% did feel they would like advice on home composting.

Rights of Way

The local footpaths, bridleways and byways are used for many purposes.



When asked, 56% would be interested in learning more about local wildlife, with 68% aware of the activities of local wildlife / conservation bodies such as the East Devon AONB and Devon Wildlife Trust. In addition, 48% would be interested in a local produce exchange and 43% would be interested in a community orchard.



Stooks in Shute Vale

Action Plan

Concern	Action	Action by	Priority	Time scale
Untidiness in certain locations	Monitor closely and encourage parishioners to report any problems to PC	PC EDDC DCC AONB	High	Short Term
Need for improvements to signage, rights of way and benches	Maintain and improve the standard of rights of way, signage and benches	PC EDDC DCC AONB	High	Short Term
The amount of litter and dog-fouling	Investigate means of reducing litter and dog-fouling by promoting awareness within the Parish	PC EDDC	High	Medium Term
Lack of recycling of cardboard	Encourage EDDC to collect cardboard from houses	PC EDDC	High	Short Term
Lack of information about environmental issues such as energy saving schemes, home composting, produce exchange, allotments, community orchards and local wildlife	Make available sources of information about each category	PC AONB DWT Local REC's	High	Medium term

Acknowledgements

Shute Parish Council
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Christopher Bonny for all the data processing.

Copies of the map of the Parish of Shute and Whitford (Page 3) may be purchased from the Clerk to Shute Parish Council.



Whitford Scarecrow Festival