

Chieveley, Oare & Curridge Parish Plan

draft

Chieveley, Oare and Curridge Parish Plan

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1. Foreword

"It is with pleasure I introduce the Chieveley, Oare & Curridge (COC) Parish Plan. It is the outcome of almost four year's hard work by the Parish Plan Steering Committee (PPSC) and many other volunteers.

This plan is supported by your Parish Council and West Berkshire Council and will be used by local and central government to influence future policies affecting our community.

We are very grateful for the excellent response we received from the questionnaire which clearly indicated the issues and concerns you have about the Parish. One clear message that came from the whole community during the consultation process was that, whilst most residents are happy with life in the Parish, there is a wish to maintain and enhance certain aspects and facilities. Already, as a result of your response, improvements are being made. A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is now in place at Chieveley Recreation Ground after £30,000 was raised using evidence from our Have your Say days. A further £390 has been received from Healthy and Active Parishes Fund to purchase integrated cricket wickets for the MUGA. However, there is still a lot to do!

This document provides some historical background to the different areas within the Parish and an explanation of the way in which the Parish Plan started and has since developed. It summarises the results of the plan questionnaire and gives you the background to particular objectives and actions proposed to address the main issues identified.

The next stage is to implement the list of actions set out in the Action Plan. The acknowledgements section lists some of the many people who have helped so far and we are very grateful for their contribution. If, when you have read this document you find you have a particular interest in any of the objectives and would like to get involved in the plan, please come forward, we need your help. Our contact details are shown on [page .](#)

I hope you will join us 'to make a difference...'

Denis Butcher, Chairman
Chieveley, Oare & Curridge Parish Plan Steering Committee

2. Profile and History of the Parish

The Parish is situated in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) offering outstanding views of the countryside from many parts of the Parish. Within the Parish boundary, lie the villages of Chieveley and Curridge, the hamlet of Oare, Denison Barracks and scattered dwellings in a number of locations such as North Heath, Snelsmore Common and Orchard Park (See figure X on page X). According to the 2001 census the Parish was home to 1481 people and 508 households.

The Village of Chieveley

Chieveley village lies just west of the A34 and approximately 4 miles north of Newbury on a relatively flat chalk dip slope (where the slope of the ground follows the slope of the underlying rock). The landscape is characterised by gently undulating landforms, shallow slopes, hedgerows and hedgerow trees and winding lanes set within grassy banks. The settlement is cloaked with mature trees, shrubs and hedgerows. Apart from the church tower (about 18.5m in height) and a water tower at the north end of the village, there are no obvious visible structures. Chieveley is therefore ideal from the view of conserving the natural landscape in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The village settlement is overwhelmingly residential, and Chieveley's easy access to the M4 corridor and employment within the Thames Valley, makes it a particularly attractive and convenient place to live. Over the past 25 years the number of residents has increased with the addition of some small housing developments, most recently this has taken place on land between Chieveley and Downend. The Chieveley community also benefits from having its own church, shop, bakery, pub, surgery, toddler group, pre-school, primary school, nursery, village hall, recreation ground and lawn tennis club. There is also a number of thriving clubs and societies, such as the Floral Group, Gardening Club and the W.I.

Archaeological investigations undertaken by the Highways Agency reveal that the land has been used since early prehistoric times. Scatters of flint artefacts and burnt flint show that activity was widespread in Neolithic and Bronze Age times. Several pits of Bronze Age date were discovered, but it was perhaps not until the Roman period that the land became more densely settled. A Roman farmstead was discovered near the village, while sporadic Anglo-Saxon finds indicate that the areas continued to be settled and farmed as it has been until the present day.

In Victorian times it was believed the origin of the name is 'Field of Chives'. The first Vicar of Chieveley was Elias, appointed in 1154. It is likely that there was a Saxon church before it was replaced by the Normans and later the Victorians. Chieveley once had its own Maypole, near to Maypole Cottage (on the corner of the High Street and Church Lane). It is believed that during the civil war in October 1644 Oliver Cromwell stayed the night at the Blue Boar (now well known as the Crab), whilst his forces spent the night at North Heath.

[Photo's of Chieveley](#)

[Illustrations of Chieveley – Denis Butcher](#)

The village of Curridge

Curridge is located in the south east corner of the parish and is physically closer to Hermitage village than that of Chieveley village. Part of Curridge is located on the B4009, part along the road to Snelsmore and Winterbourne and along a number of unmetalled lanes such as Crabtree Lane, Chapel Lane, Sandy Lane & Curridge Green.'

There are wooded areas on both sides of the Curridge road and a variety of walks and rides across fields and through woodland. The village benefits from a primary school, two pubs, a hall run by the Women's Institute (W.I.) and petrol station with convenience shop. It also has its own horticultural society, residents' association and riding school.

Like Chieveley, Curridge provides quick and easy access to larger towns and London. However the opening of the M4, junction 13, in the early 1970's and the gradual upgrading of the A34 trunk road has emphasized the separation between both sides of the Parish.

Over the years Curridge has expanded by infilling and in 1987- 89 forty-three houses were built on Bate's yard, a former brick works. The landscape has also changed irrevocably over recent years, due to sand extraction from a large area of land, south of the M4

An exciting historical discovery was made in 1998 when a hoard of 425 brass and copper Roman coins were found by someone with a metal detector in an undisclosed location in Curridge. These coins are now kept in West Berkshire Museum, The Wharf, Newbury.

Pics of Curridge - Janice & Jean

The Hamlet of Oare

Oare sits in the north east corner of the Parish and for many centuries was predominately a farming community. At Oare Farm and Manor Farm, a small workforce of men and boys were employed on the land. Several of the present day houses were once small farm workers' cottages or farm buildings. Today the community consists of just 24 dwellings and the two farms are now combined into one.

Of historical interest in the vicinity, there are traces of settlements by Ancient Britons and subsequent occupation by Romans. In 1966, when a bungalow was being built next to Oare Church, Roman artefacts and pottery shards were excavated.

In 968 AD King Edgar gave Oare Chapel to the Abbey of Abingdon and a priory was built on the present site of Oare Farm House. It is believed that the priory was the rest house for the abbots of Abingdon on their walk from Abingdon to Winchester. The fine wall around the garden of Oare Farm House is thought to be the original wall and the pond in the meadow behind Oare Church contained the carp the monks ate on Fridays.

The priory stood until it was pulled down during the abolition of the monasteries in Henry V1111's reign. Only the small 'People's Chapel' survived, and Oare was merged with Chieveley. This chapel is thought to have been later destroyed by fire, and it was not until 1852 that the present church was built by the Reverend J E Robinson.

Pic of Oare 1880 - Mike Taylor

Denison Barracks

The Royal School of Military Survey is located at Denison Barracks in Curridge. Combined, there are approximately 140 houses at Curridge Piece and the Faircross Estate. This small community is serviced by a convenience store and on site there are barrack blocks, workshops and excellent recreational and sports facilities. At the time of writing, the future of the site is under review.

(See map, located in Curridge area of Parish)

Snelsmore

Snelsmore is located in the south west corner of the Parish and apart from a handful of dwellings the landscape is predominantly rural and woodland. There is at Bussock Wood (within private land) a fine Iron Age fortification.

Pic

The Village Design Statement (V.D.S)

Chieveley Village has been protected by the V.D.S. since it was published in 2002 and it has been instrumental in helping to preserve the rural environment and limiting development. The V.D.S. has now been adopted by the The Curridge Residents Association (C.R.A.) to cover their village as well. Whilst the Parish sits in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Chieveley village also has a designated conservation area within the central part of the village.

The Housing Needs Survey

A 'Housing Needs Survey' was conducted across the whole Parish in 2006 to establish attitudes and opinions of local residents to further building development and to gauge local housing need. The Housing Needs Survey is a document adopted by the Parish Council and is available on request.

3. Map of Parish

(Insert)

4. Development of the Parish Plan

The timeline of the process was as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
<i>Early 2007</i>	<i>Formation of a provisional working group</i>
<i>July, 7th, 13th, 14th 07</i>	<i>'Have your say' days at Chieveley & Curridge</i>
<i>Summer 07</i>	<i>Collation of comments & views from the 'Have your say days'</i>
<i>Sept 07</i>	<i>Steering committee & focus groups established</i>
<i>Nov 07</i>	<i>Discussion forums with residents at Chieveley & Curridge</i>
<i>Nov – Apr 08</i>	<i>Draft questionnaire produced</i>
<i>May – Sept 08</i>	<i>Draft questionnaire tested, edited & final copy printed</i>
<i>Oct - Nov 08</i>	<i>Publicity campaigns & questionnaire distributed</i>
<i>Dec 08</i>	<i>Questionnaire responses to the Greenham Common Trust for analysis</i>
<i>Mar 09</i>	<i>Preliminary feedback to residents at the annual parish assembly</i>
<i>26th Sept & 3rd Oct 09</i>	<i>Open Days at Chieveley and Curridge for residents to view results & make input into action plans</i>
<i>Winter 09 – Spring 10</i>	<i>Final plan drafted and action plan developed</i>
<i>June 10 – July 10</i>	<i>Draft plan submitted to Parish Council and approved</i>
<i>27th June 10</i>	<i>Presentation of draft plan at Chieveley village fete</i>
<i>Aug 10</i>	<i>Draft plan submitted to West Berks District Council</i>
<i>Oct 10</i>	<i>Approved plan published and submitted to residents</i>
<i>Winter 10</i>	<i>Approved Parish Plan published</i>

Invitations were distributed to all residents across the parish to attend the 'Have your say' days in July 2007. 235 residents attended, aged from under 10 years old to over 85. Topic areas were set out around the rooms and the star attraction was the 6ft x 4ft Parish map with red, green and blue flags, provided to pin-point likes, dislikes and areas residents would like to preserve. These days were so popular that by the end of the map was completely covered with flags. A further attraction was a drawing and photograph competition with prizes sponsored by Dreweatt Neate and a local resident Jeff Mead.

The first chair of Parish Plan Steering Committee was Chris Carter-Keall. Focus groups and focus group leaders were:

The Key Topic Areas:

Highways and Transport
Recreation Facilities

Housing and Development
Local Government

Education

Environment & Sustainability

Community & Infrastructure

Business & Employment

Focus Group Leaders:

Paul Turner
Janice Bridger & Kathy Titcombe
& Tracy Snook

Nick Hodge

Hilary Cole

Jean Fayle, Martin Lindeman

Mike Taylor

Hilary Cole

Chris Carter-Keall

A 'Discussion Forum' was held in Nov 07 to which all residents and businesses were invited. The event was advertised on the radio, with posters, village newsletters, websites and a leaflet drop. The aim was to identify the key issues per topic area to address in the Parish Plan Questionnaire and to begin drawing up questions.

The draft questionnaire was drawn up using the recommended software package produced by the Countryside & Community research Unit, University of Gloucestershire and with support from the Greenham Common Trust. In May 2008 this was tested on mixed sample of 20 residents and the final questionnaire produced. A vigorous advertising campaign was launched prior to the distribution of the questionnaire in Nov 08. A 'LOST' (figure X) publicity campaign was launched in October with posters put up in key places around the Parish. This informed residents to 'look out for their questionnaire or their chance to have their say will be lost'.

The questionnaire was distributed by a large team of volunteer distributors', across the Parish. Each Distributor hand delivered questionnaires to 20-30 households within their nominated area and notified residents when they would return to collect the completed document. The process was very effective achieving a very high return rate of 80%.

During the two weeks that residents were given to complete the questionnaire, a second poster campaign was launched. This was a 'Countdown' (Figure Y) to the final deadline by when all questionnaires had to be returned. A number of volunteers changed the posters each day in key locations around the Parish. The countdown also took place on the Chieveley Website Homepage and also had a link to the Curridge Village website.

Chieveley and Curridge Primary School councils first engaged with Parish Plan team members in 2007 and in October 2009 this was followed up with a 'Youth questionnaire' relating to leisure and recreation, given to pupils of Chieveley Primary School. Responses were received within a two-week time frame and can be seen in section 6. For teenage residents a Youth Blog was launched on line at www.mychieveley which was also linked to Curridge Village website and advertised around the Parish. Teenagers could go on line and make comments, again on leisure and recreational facilities in the area.

During 2009, after data input and analysis by the Greenham Common Trust, the steering group and focus group leaders began to formulate the plan, attended a number of parish plan workshops, met with service providers to explore issues and identified actions and possible funding. Feedback was given to residents at the 2009 annual parish assembly and at Open days using powerpoint presentations. Once again, residents contributed to the development of the plan by adding their views on possible solutions and actions.

By the Autumn of 2010 the final action plan was approved and adopted by West Berkshire Council.

We would like to thank Sarah Ward, from the Community Council for Berkshire (CCB) who has attended many of the steering group committee meetings and provided assistance and support through the development of this document.

Business & Employment

Although local businesses and employers were sent a written invitation to the 'Have Your Say' days in 2007 and welcomed to take up a position on the Parish Plan Steering Committee, no response was received.

However, as most of the employers within the Parish are also residents, the PPSC felt they were given the opportunity to be included in the plan process by receiving and completing a parish plan questionnaire. Any issues relating to their business could be expressed through the 'additional information' feedback sheet.

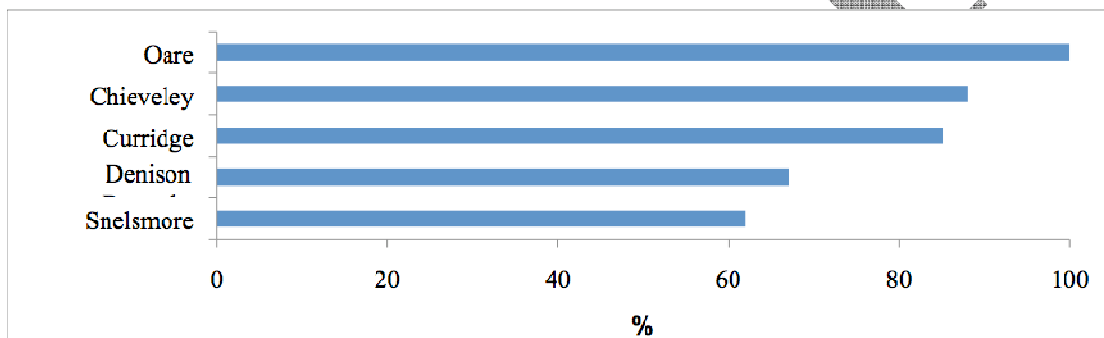
A few local businesses are likely to be involved in helping achieve some points in the Action Plan but, generally, response from the business community has been quiet.

- Pic – “my vision of the village”*
- Pic’s from events – Have Your Say Days, Discussion Forums, Open Days.*
- Pic: lost poster*
- Pic countdown poster*
- Pic: label*

5. Questionnaire Results, Key Issues & Objectives

The overall return rate received from the plan questionnaire was an exceptional 80% overall, with Oare achieving 100%. In total 716 questionnaires were completed and returned’.

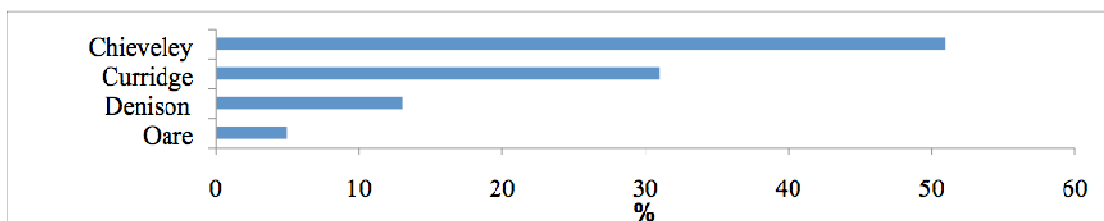
Response rate by area



Results are also available on request (see 'Contacts' on page x) for the areas of Chieveley, Curridge, Oare and Denison Barracks (see map on page.....). Some results for these areas are given in this document where they differ from the whole parish.

Section A: You and Your Household

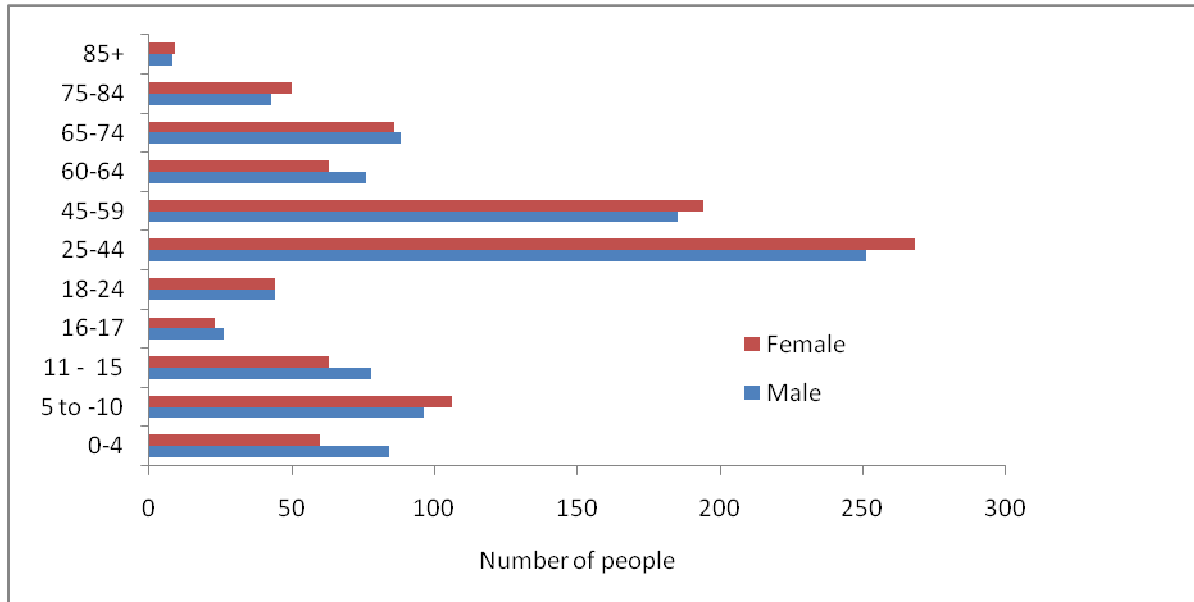
Where does your household live? (716 number of households)



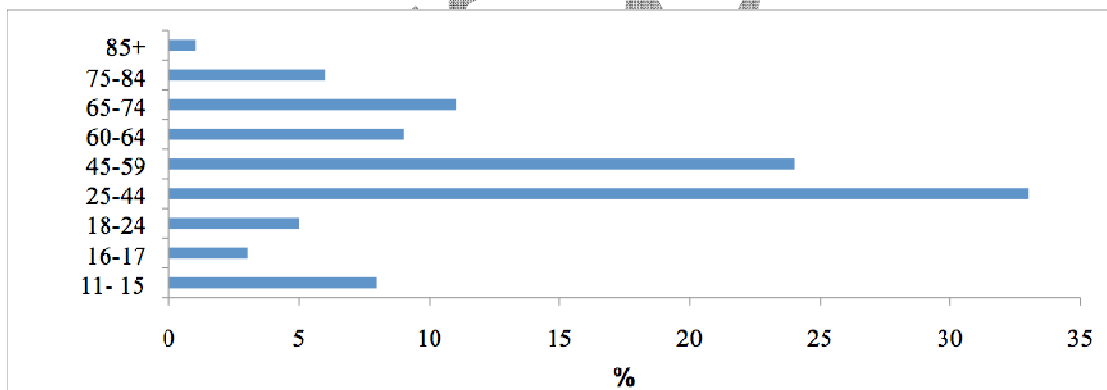
How many people including children normally live in your household? (716 number of households)

Total number of people = 1945
 Average number of people = 2.7

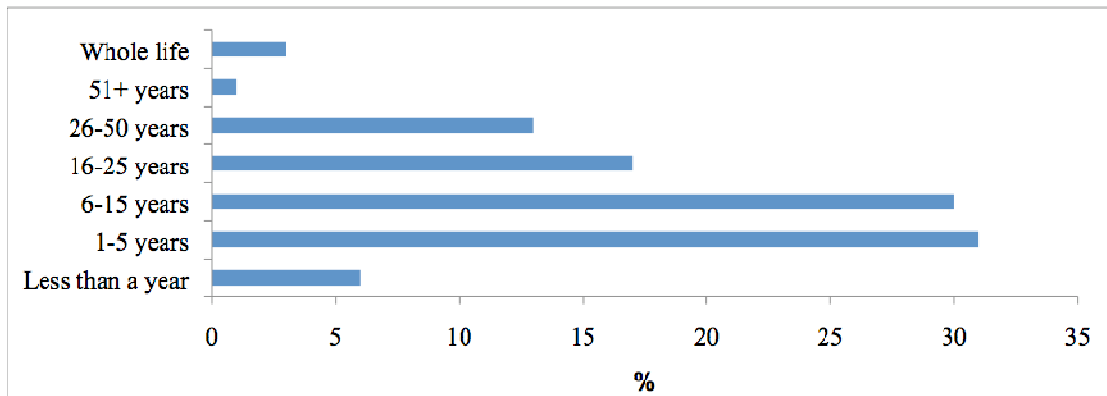
Number of people in each age group (716 number of households)



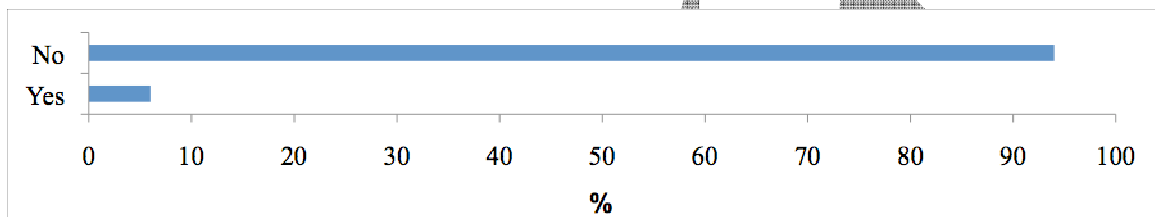
What age group do you belong to? (1532 respondents)



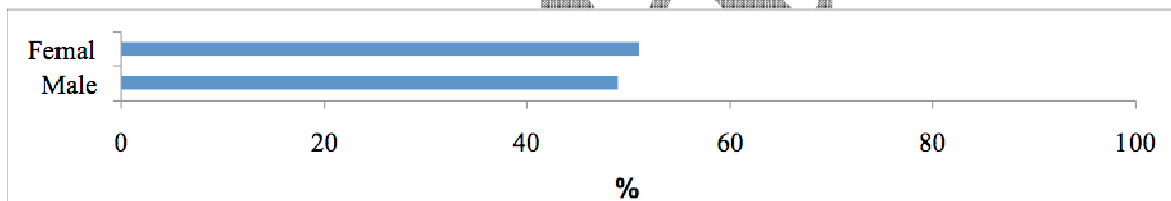
How long have you lived in the Parish? (1500 respondents)



Do you have any health problem/disability which restricts your lifestyle? (1498 respondents)

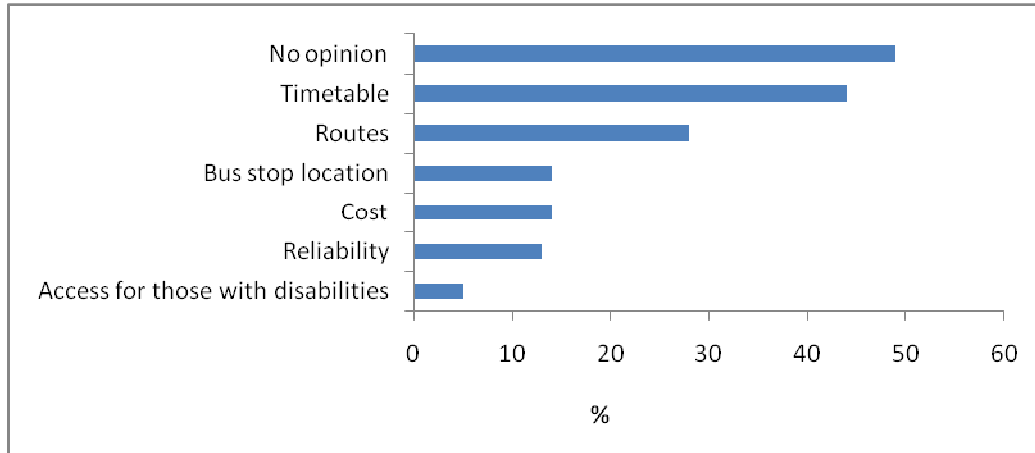


Are you male or female? (1522 respondents)

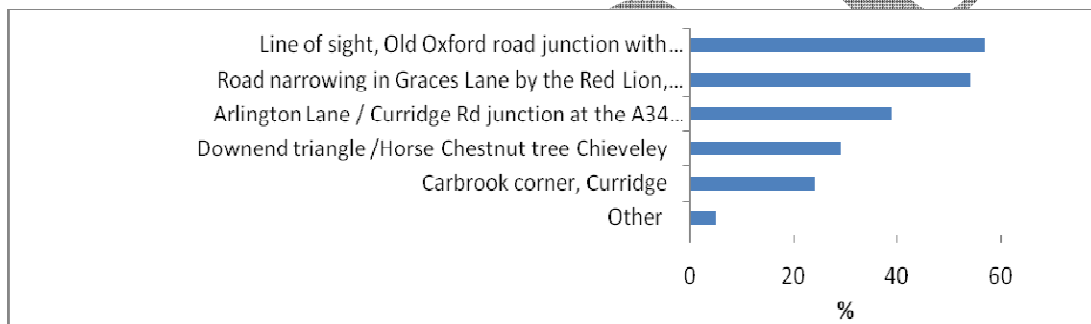


Section B: Highways & Transport

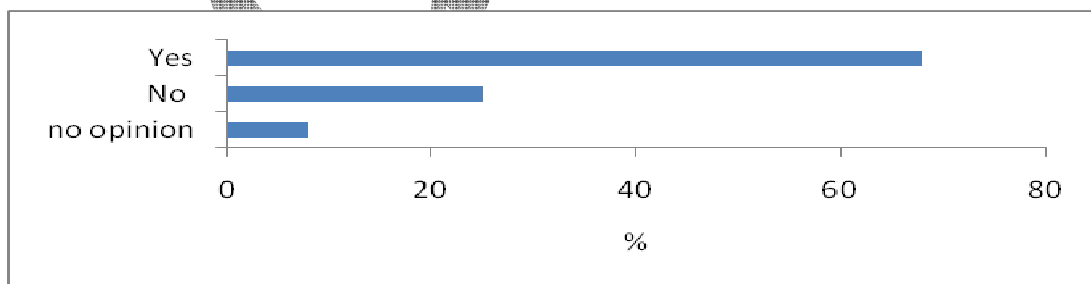
Q8 Would you like to see any improvements to the bus service with regard to: (1444 respondents)



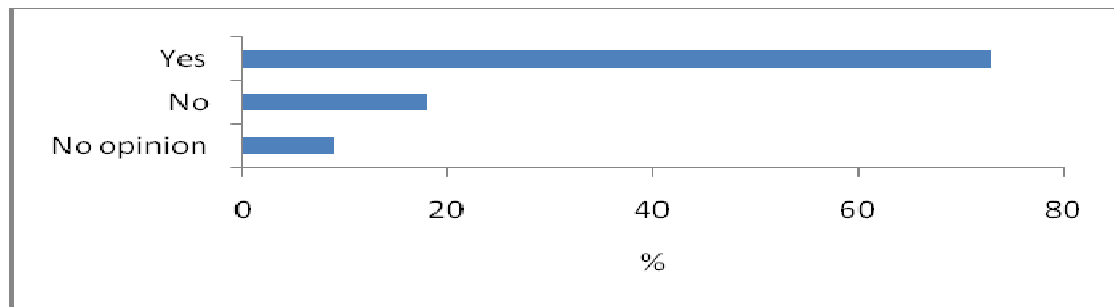
Q9 Would you support action to improve road safety in the following 'danger spots'? (1198 respondents)



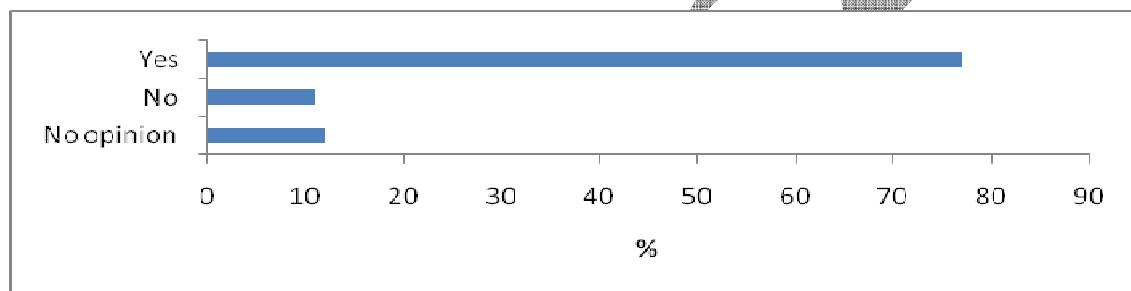
Q10 Do you think speeding traffic is a problem in the parish? (1466 respondents)



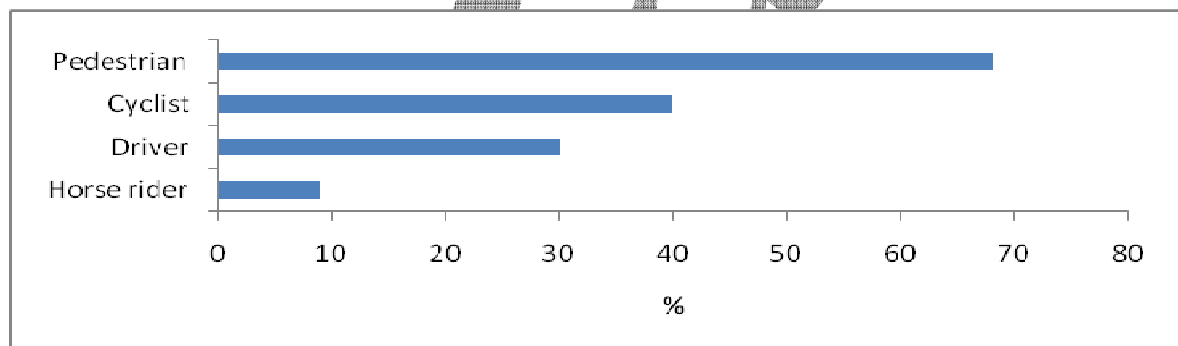
Q11 Would you support speed control measures? (1456 respondents)



Q12 Would you support action to limit HGV access in your village? (1460 respondents)



Q13 Do you have concerns for your safety when using local roads as a: (1439 respondents)



Issues:

1. Improved Bus Service

Improvements to both timetable and routes were identified as key factors that would encourage an increase in bus use.

2. Road Safety

Speeding traffic through the Parish was highlighted as a major concern, with a large majority of respondents (73%) in favour of some form of speed control measures. Safety was also a concern for all road users, particularly at a number of identified danger spots. Considerable support (76.8% of respondents) was expressed for limiting Heavy Goods Vehicles.

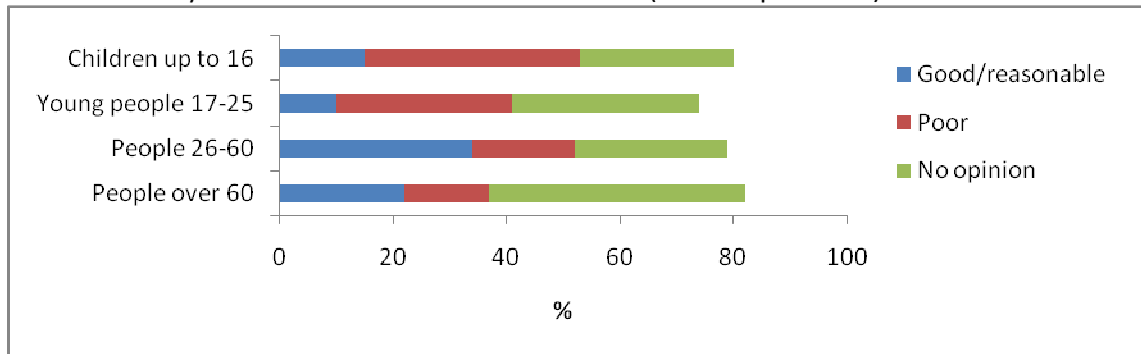
Objectives:

1. Improve public transport services in the Parish
2. Monitor and reduce speeding traffic in the Parish.
3. Improve road safety for all road users at perceived danger spots; the Old Oxford Road junction with Downend Lane, the narrowing road on Graces Lane by the Red Lion Pub and the Arlington Lane and Curridge Road junction.
4. Reduce HGV traffic within the Parish
5. Make road users feel safer
6. Improve public awareness of road safety issues in the Parish and measures available to keep people safe.

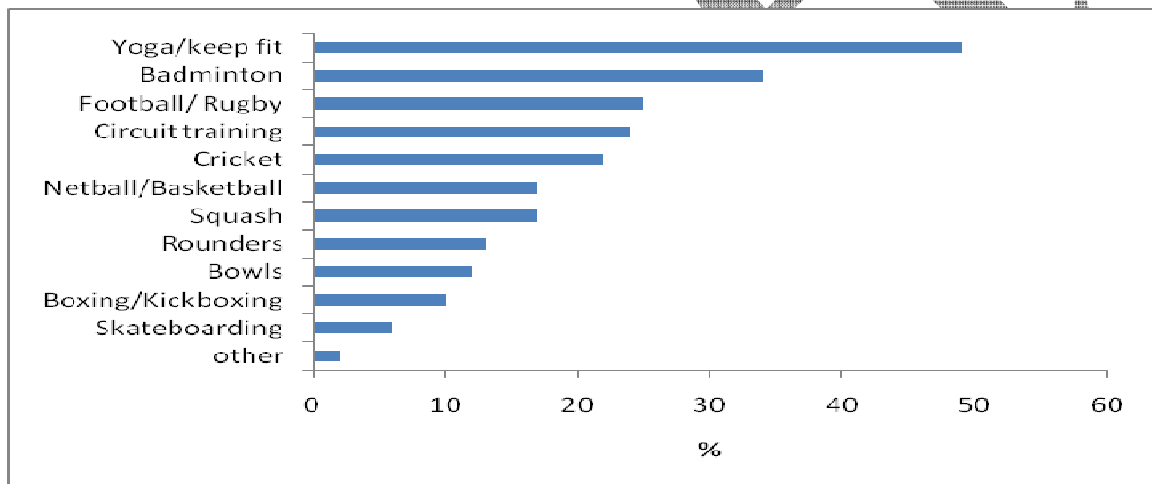
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Section C: Recreation Facilities

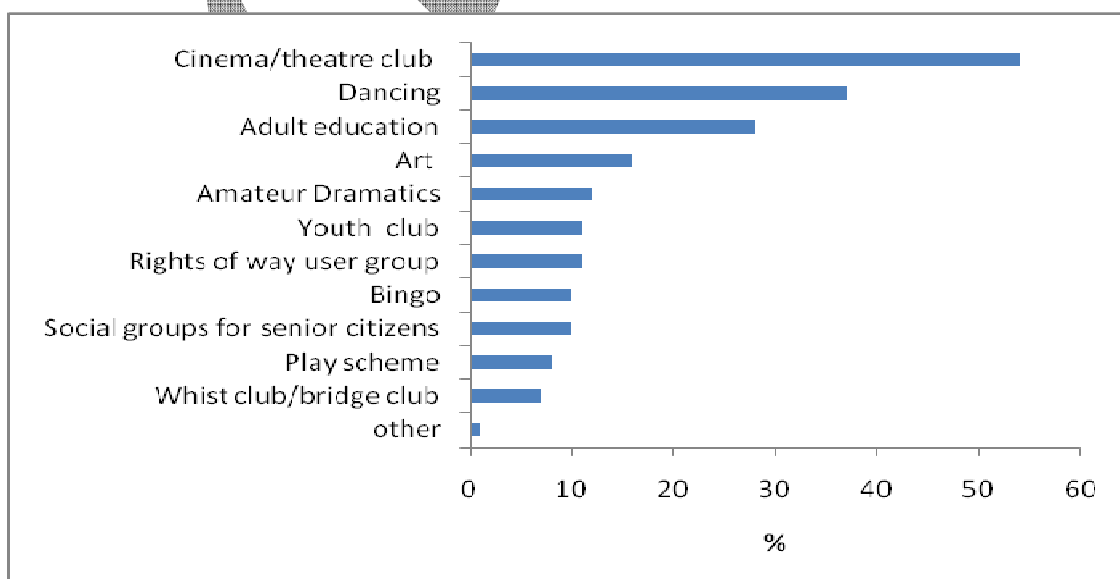
Q14 What are your views on local social facilities for: (1399 respondents)



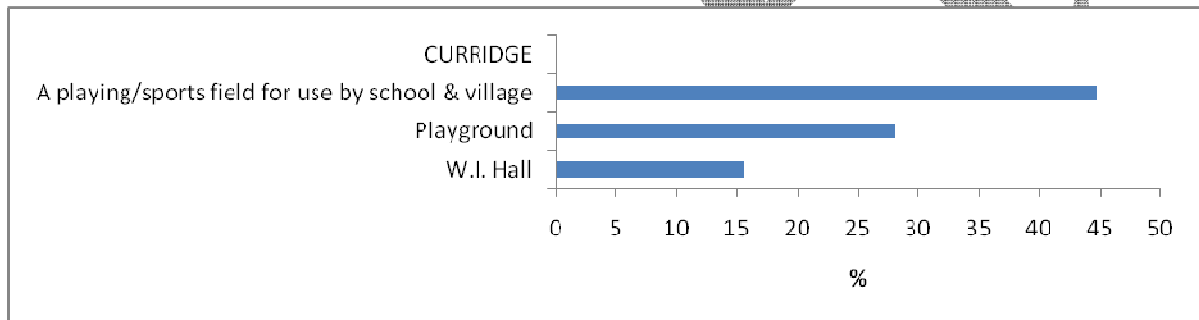
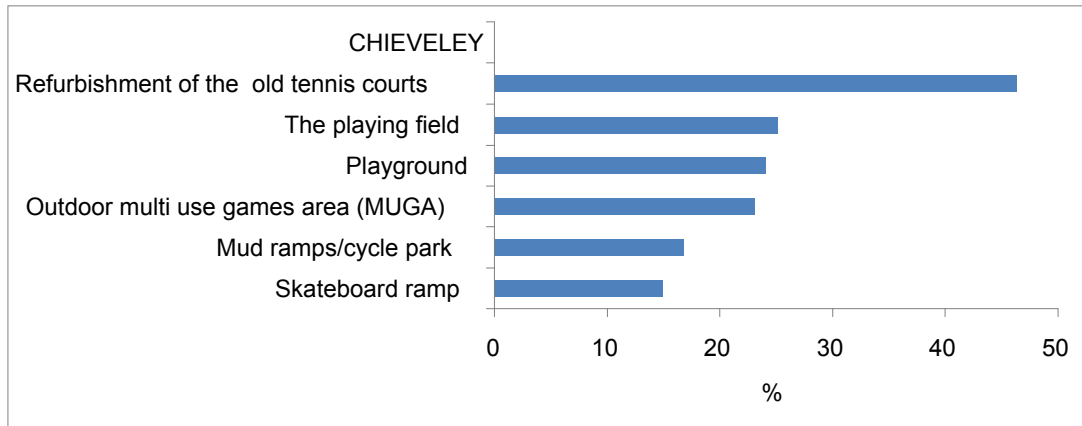
Q 15 Which new sports activities would you attend in the Parish if they were provided? (892 respondents)



Q16 Which new club activities would you attend in the Parish if they were provided? (962 respondents)



Q17 In relation to sports / recreation / leisure facilities, which of the following need to be improved, developed, provided? (949 respondents)



Issues:

Social Facilities

The questionnaire results showed that just under a half of those that responded thought the provision of social facilities was poor for those up to 25 years of age but were good or reasonable for those aged 26 to 60.

In a separate survey, nearly two-thirds of children at Chieveley Primary School aged 4 -11 years said that the number of 'out of school' activities was adequate.

Sports Activities

Yoga/Keep fit & badminton were the most popular sports activities respondents would like developed.

Social Clubs & Classes

Development of a cinema/theatre (53.5%), dancing (36.6%) and art (16.4%) club attracted the greatest level of interest for new activities. Results from Chieveley Primary School showed the children had greatest interest in a cinema club, rounders and a local Beaver/Brownie or Cub group.

Old Tennis Courts in Chieveley & Playing / Sports Field in Curridge

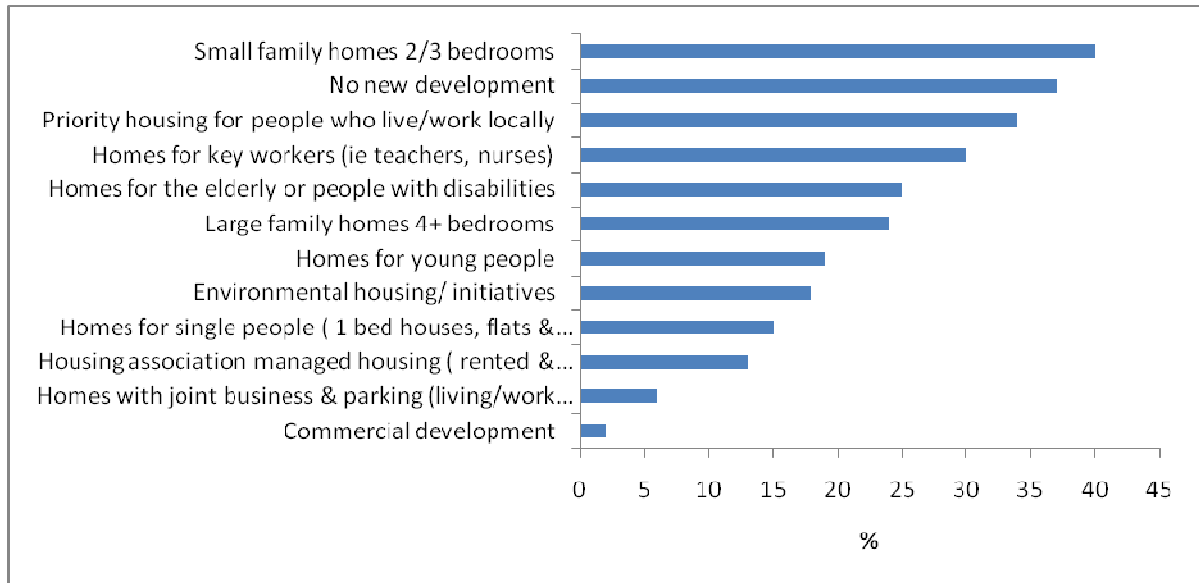
The two most popular facilities chosen for improvement or provision within the Parish, were the refurbishing the old tennis courts in Chieveley (77% of Chieveley residents) and the provision of a playing/sports field in Curridge (92% of Curridge residents).

Objectives

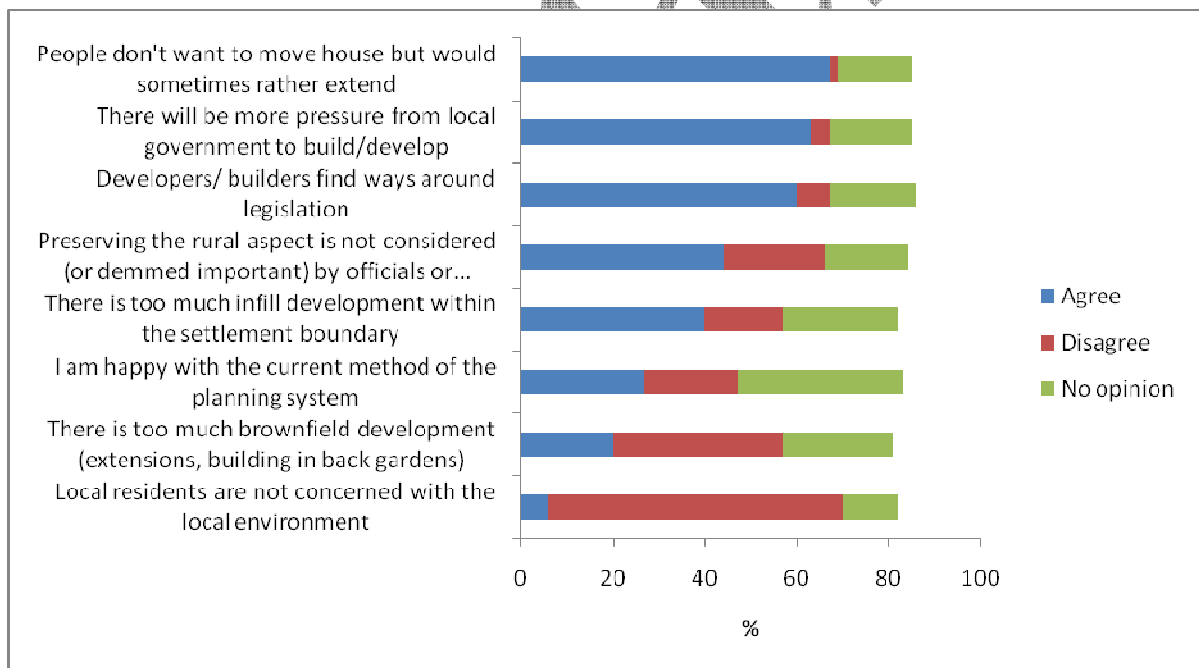
1. Improve and promote new and existing local social facilities for the villagers, particularly the youth.
2. Raise awareness of the clubs and activities already available in the Parish and to investigate new opportunities.
3. Improve and promote the available sports/recreation and leisure facilities in the Parish.
4. Refurbish the old tennis courts in Chieveley and provide a MUGA for community use.
5. Increase versatility and sporting opportunities on the field at Chieveley Recreational Centre.
6. Provide a playing sports field for use by Curridge School and villagers.
7. Enhance the Curridge playground area to make it more accessible and interesting for the community.

Section D: Housing & Development

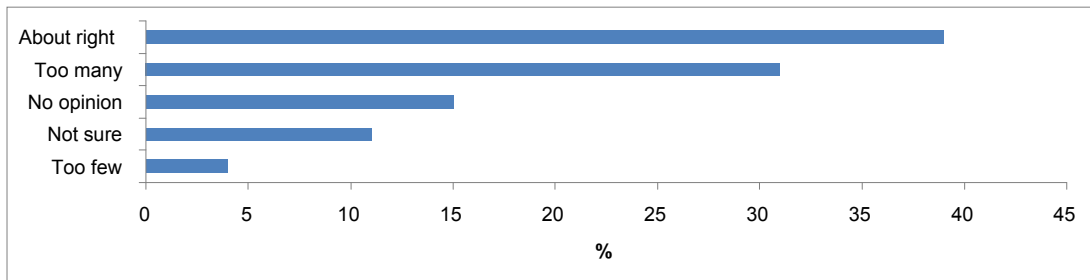
Q20 What type(s) of housing development would be acceptable in the Parish? (1321 respondents)



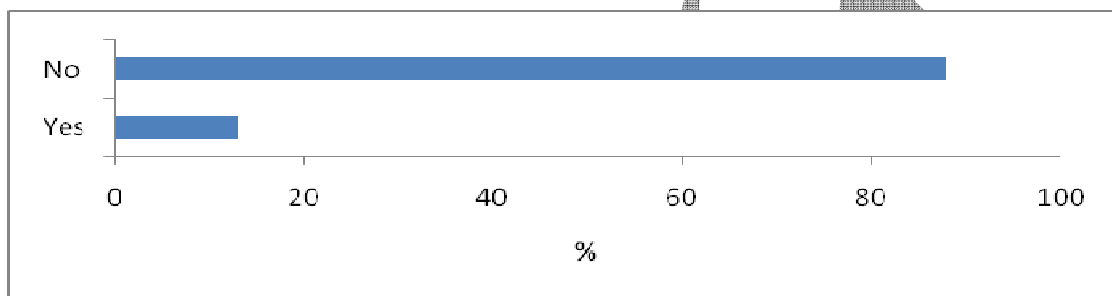
Q22 Please confirm the following statements that you feel apply (1322 respondents)



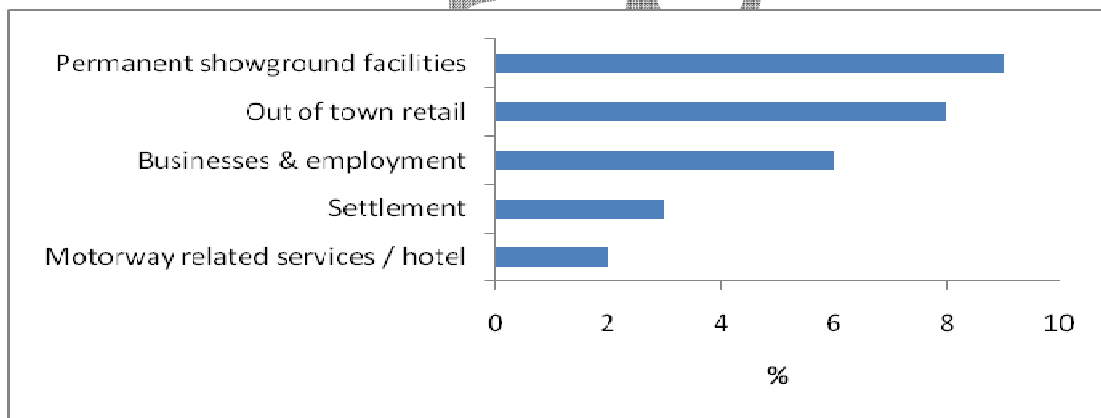
Q23 What do you think about the number of houses that have been built in the Parish (1400 respondents)



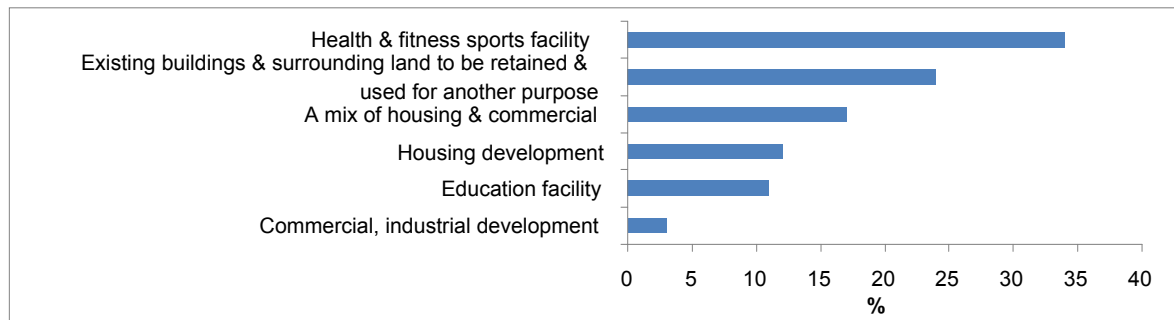
Q24 Do you think there should be further development around the M4/A34 junction 13? (1267 respondents)



If yes, what further development should be allowed (193 respondents)



Q25 What use should be made of the MOD land if the Ministry of defence were to close?
(1317 respondents)



Issues:

Opinion on Future Development

40% of residents, feel the Parish has had the right amount of development over the past 10 years. Residents expressed priority for housing, if any further development takes place, should be given to small family homes, for those living or working locally, key workers and the elderly or people with disabilities. At the time of conducting the questionnaire planning permission had recently been granted for 75 new dwellings at Bardown. The response of some residents with regard to the amount and type of new development can be viewed in context of this issue at the time. 37.4% of respondents felt that development for business and commercial purposes, including live/work units, was undesirable.

Residents expressed the view that whilst they feel preserving the rural environment is important to them, they are concerned it is not of high concern to authorities. Results show that residents feel there is a pressure from local Government to build and develop the area and that they feel developers and builders will be able to gain permission to do so. However, development of brownfield sites was generally supported.

General opinion provided by the additional comments sheet, was that future additional housing should be planned carefully as the infrastructure is now considered to be under pressure and at its maximum capacity.

A very high percentage (87.5%) of residents wish for no further development at Junction 13, M4/A34.

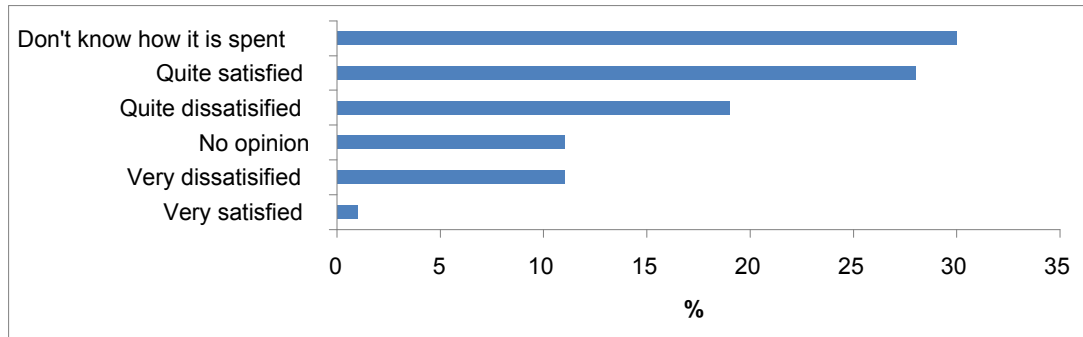
The most popular option over the future of the M.O.D. land at the Denison Barracks was for this to be used as a sports, health and fitness facility.

Objectives:

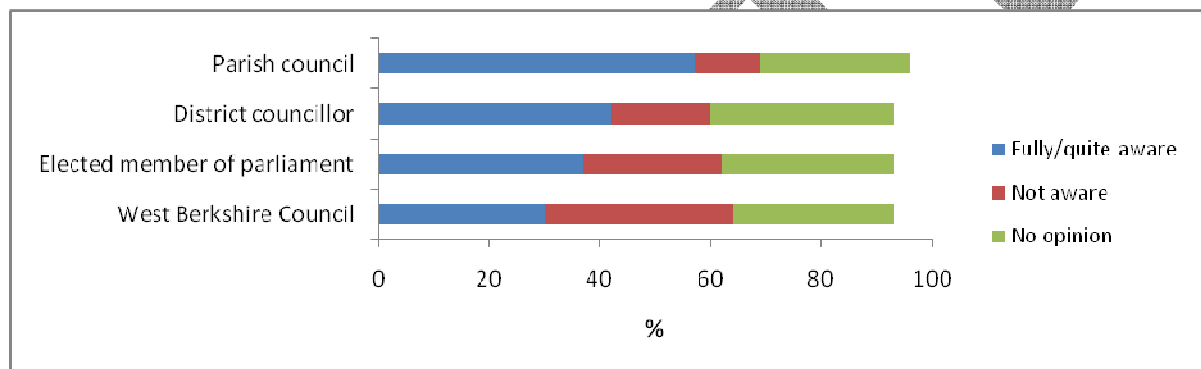
1. Ensure controlled and appropriate provision of housing in the Parish that includes key worker and affordable housing for local people.
2. Ensure controlled and appropriate provision of housing in the Parish through planning policy to reduce impact of infilling, to preserve the rural aspect and to encourage brown fill development.
3. Establish the right balance of housing for the benefit of the community
4. Do not permit M4/A34 junction to develop or expand
5. To work with the relevant bodies to ensure that Denison Barracks does not become derelict and that any changes will benefit the community.

Section E: Local Government

Q27 The local authority is empowered to raise money through the council tax. Are you satisfied with the way this money is spent? (1409 respondents)



Q28 Do you feel that your elected representatives in local Government are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings? (1289 respondents)



Issues:

Council Tax Spending

When residents were asked if they were happy with the way the local council spends money raised by council tax, more were satisfied (28%), than those that were dissatisfied (19.4%) However, many residents (29.5%) said they didn't know how the money is being spent.

Awareness of Local Concerns and Feelings

Residents also said how much they feel the following authorities are aware of local concern and feeling:

- 58% feel that the Parish Council is fully/quite aware.
- 42% feel the District Councillor is fully/quite aware
- but only 37% feel local government, including the elected Member of Parliament are fully/quite aware.

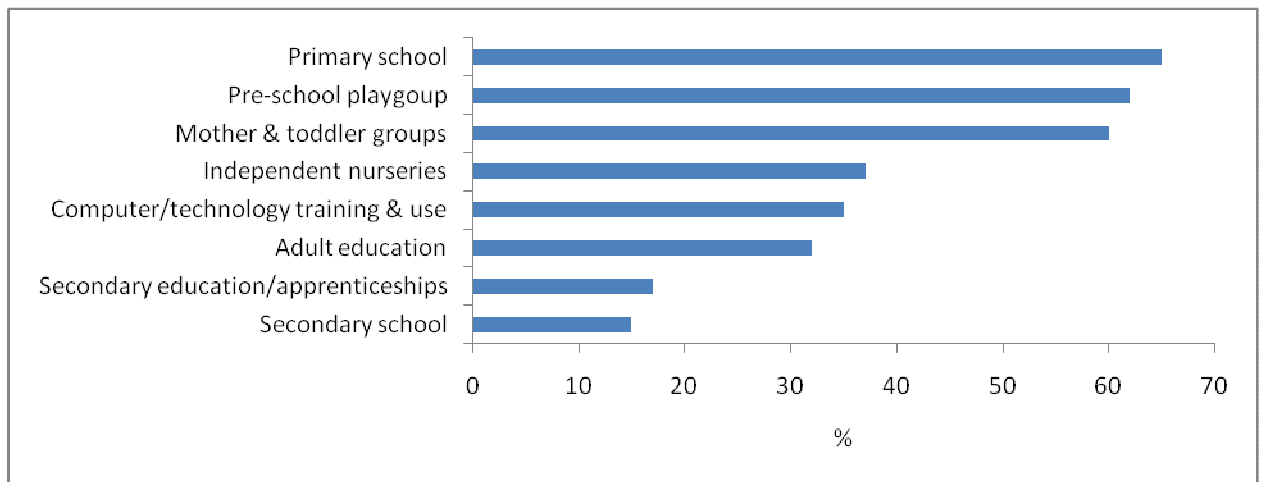
It was also noted that much of the community provided no opinion or response on this topic area.

Objectives:

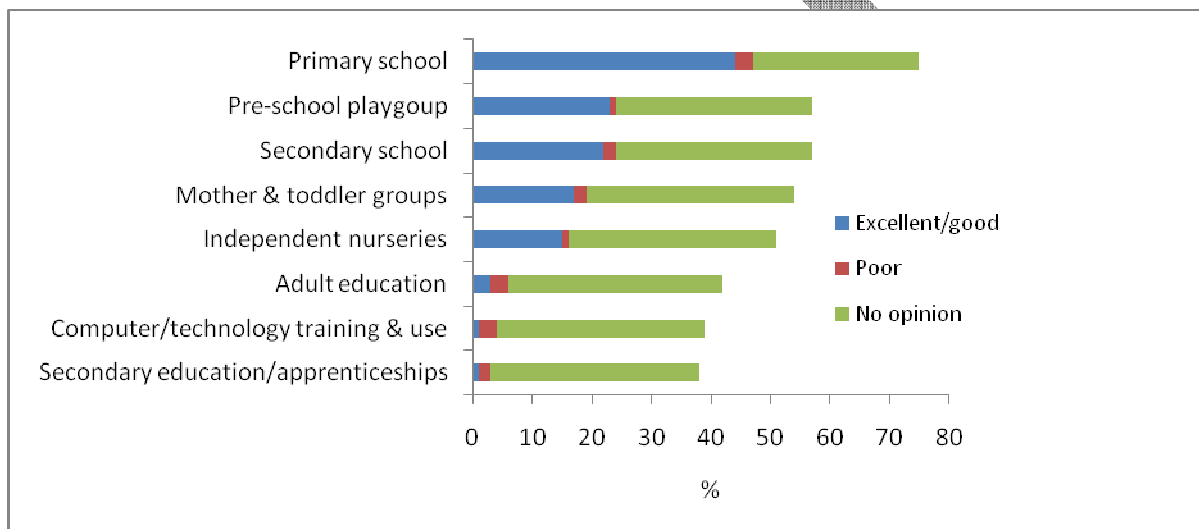
1. Ensure residents are made aware of expenditure and how council tax money is being spent
2. Improve West Berkshire Council's knowledge of local concerns and feelings.

Section F: Education

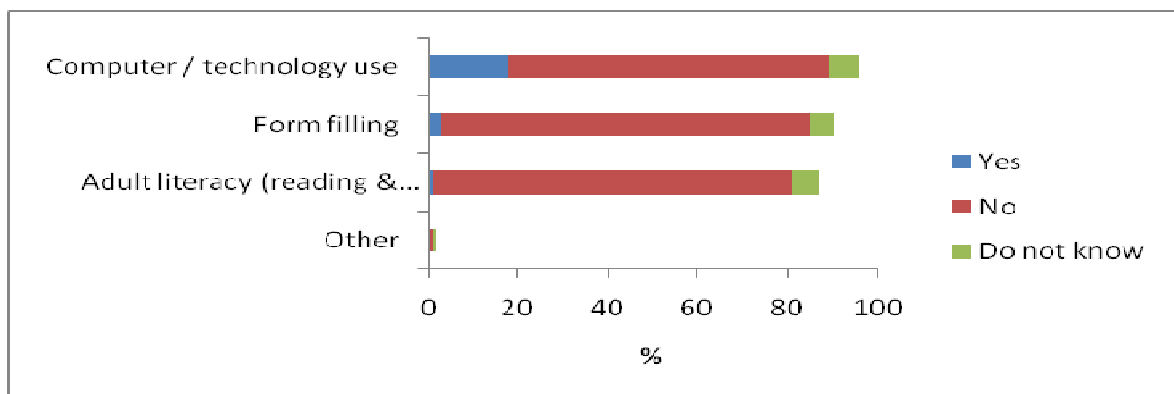
Q 30 Do you believe there is a need for the following in the Parish? (891 respondents)



Q 31 If you use the educational facilities available to residents in the Parish, how do you rate them? (616 respondents)



Q32 Would you welcome help with any of the following? (1065 respondents)



Issues:

Education is given high regard in the Parish from early years to full-time education. The Parish is fortunate to have mother & toddler groups, pre-school facilities, two primary schools and two senior schools providing specialised education (The Priors Court & Mary Hare School). An educational facility, particularly for early years and primary level is considered good to excellent by those who gave an opinion.

Adult education within the Parish is available, although limited. Residents have access to facilities outside the Parish, offering a good standard of secondary and further education if required. Computers and technology was the only subject area which a small number of residents (190) expressed an interest.

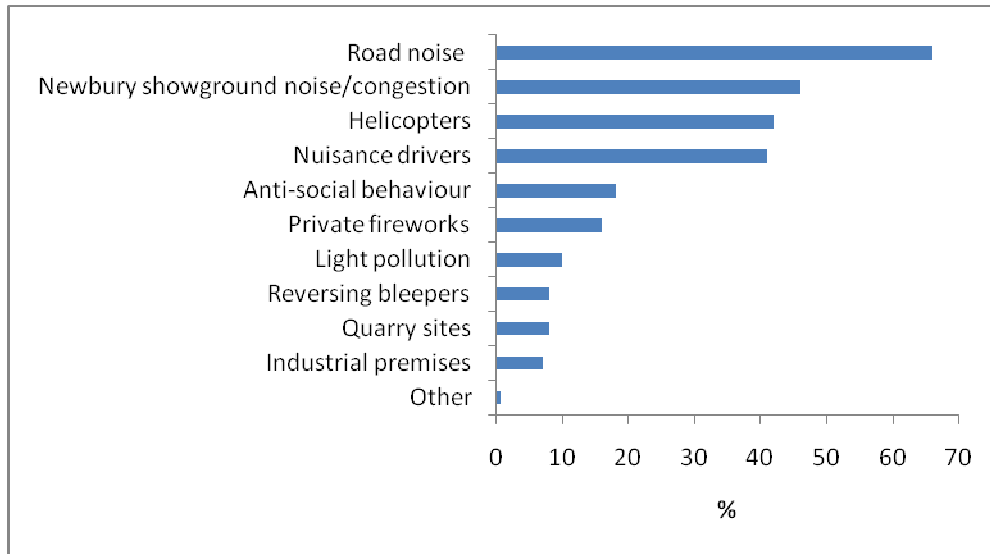
Objectives:

1. Ensure existing provision of education is inclusive and accessible to all residents.

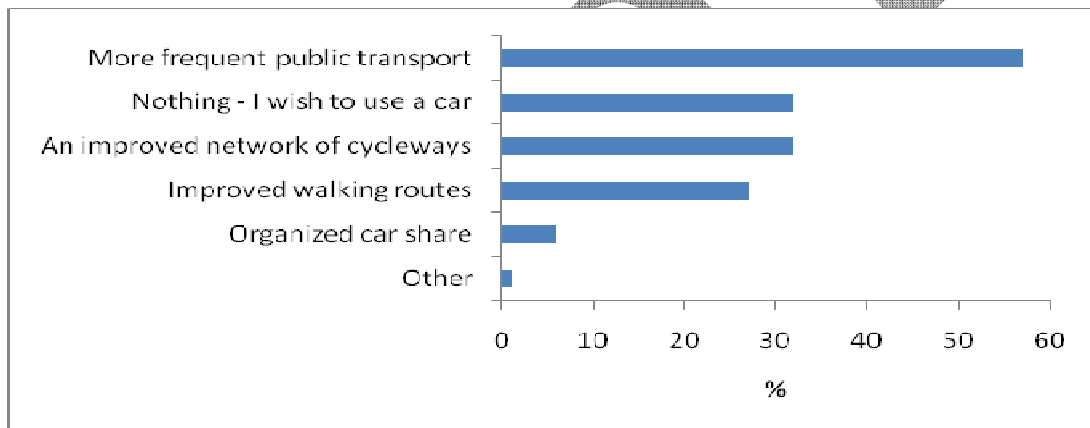
draft

Section G: Environment & Sustainability

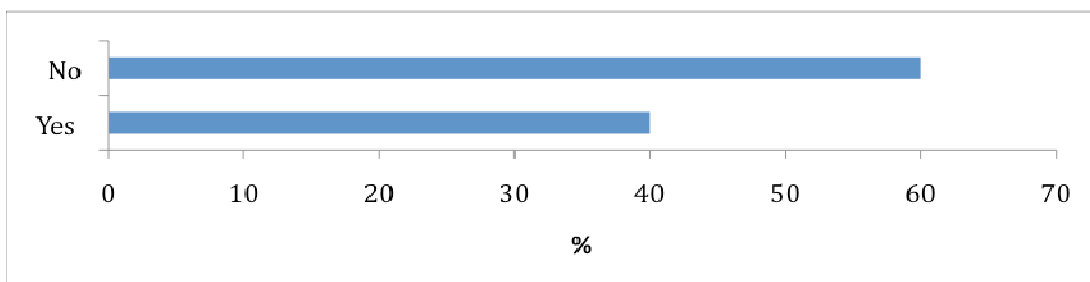
Q33 Does Chieveley Parish suffer from any of the following types of regular disturbance? (1154 respondents)



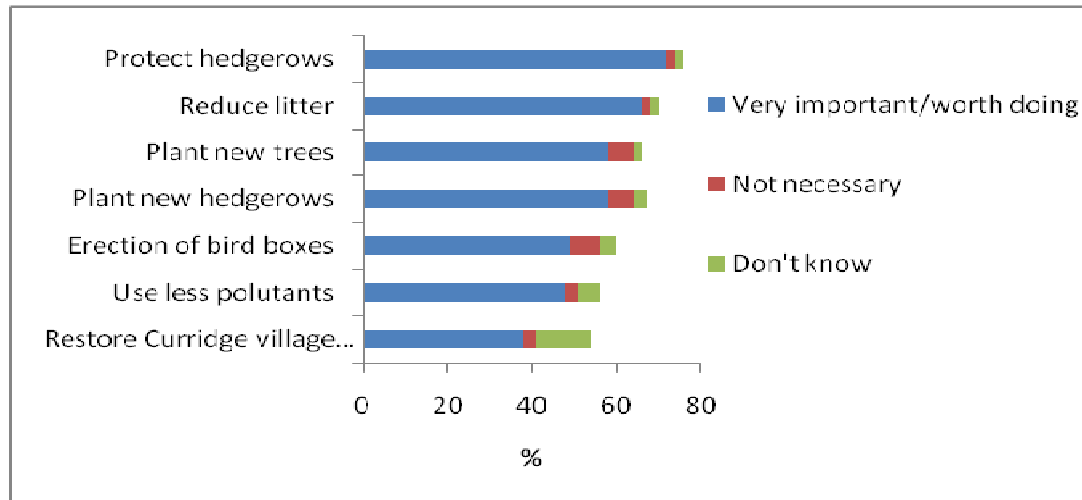
Q34 What would make you less reliant on your motor car? (1358 respondents)



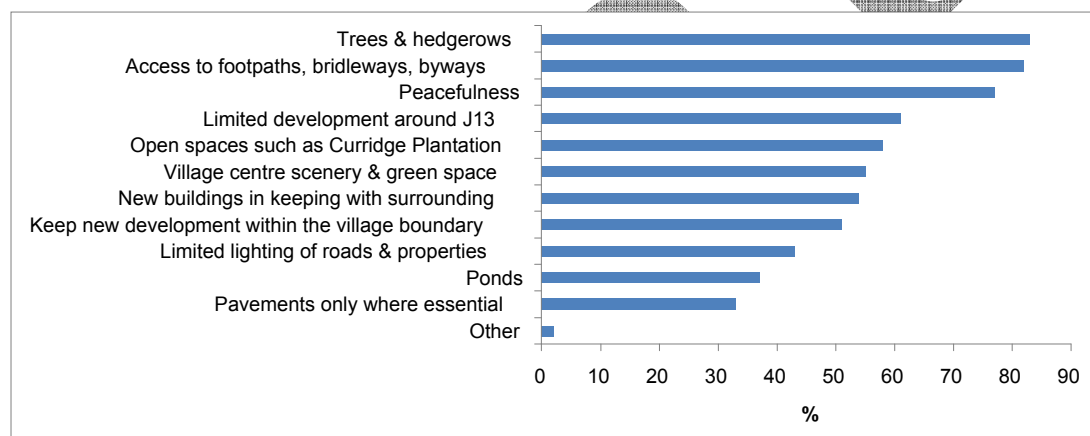
Q35 Would you welcome the provision of an allotment to grow vegetables/fruit? (1312 respondents)



Q 36 What do you think could be done to protect wildlife in Chieveley Parish? (1293 respondents)



Q37 Which elements of the countryside around Chieveley, Curridge & Oare do you value? (1402 respondents)



Noise & Disturbances

A high number of residents (66%) expressed concern about road noise from the M4 and the A34. The location most affected by this is Oare, where 90% of residents reported that they are affected. (see appendix?) and In June 2000, representation was made by Oare residents to the Highways Agency requesting resurfacing of the stretch running east from Junction 13 with low decibel asphalt. Since 2005, further campaigning has been made by all Parish Councils along the M4 corridor from Yattendon to Wickham, and by the local MP. The Agency's position is that motorways are only resurfaced when their integrity is breaking down, not specifically for noise mitigation purposes, but when resurfacing becomes necessary it will be done with low decibel asphalt. Whilst short stretches of the road have been resurfaced in recent years, it may take some time before more extensive work is carried out.

Noise associated with the Newbury Showground has also been highlighted as a problem, along with congestion on show days. Helicopter noise and nuisance drivers were identified by just over 40% of residents.

Sustainable (Non-motorised) Travel

Over half of residents (55%) already used footways / pavements, footpaths, bridleways or byways to get to work, school, shops, pub or club on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

When asked 'what would make you less reliant on your motor car?' 57% of residents said more frequent public transport, 32% said improved cycle ways and, 27% said improved walking routes.

There were over 20 different suggestions put forward to improve non-motorised travel between settlements within the parish and between adjacent parishes for walkers, cyclists, and equestrians.

Suggestions were: off-road routes along Priors Court Rd, the North Heath Rd, the Newbury-Wantage Rd near Bussock Mayne & from BW44 to Snelsmore Common; use of the old railway line to Hampstead Norreys & Newbury; new routes connecting Oare to the old railway line, Chalky Lane to BW49, BR5B to FP14, FP8 to BW7; upgrade footpaths (Winterbourne 15, Chieveley 10, 14, 38); finish the cycling/walking track from the Fox & Hounds public house into Newbury. 49% of residents requested improved pavements/footways.

Allotment Scheme

524 residents, said they would welcome an allotment to grow fruit and vegetables. Comments suggest that some residents in their advancing years, find they are less able to manage their gardens and may welcome a younger person to work an area of their plot, perhaps in exchange for some of the produce.

Protection of Hedgerows and Trees

The vast majority of residents valued the rural aspects, which the parish currently provides. The protection of our hedgerows and trees, and the planting of new ones were shown to be a high priority for many residents. Reduction in the amount of litter was also considered an important issue. Additional comments from residents suggest that the scattering of rubbish from car windows along roadside verges is the most acute aspect of this problem as well as fly tipping.

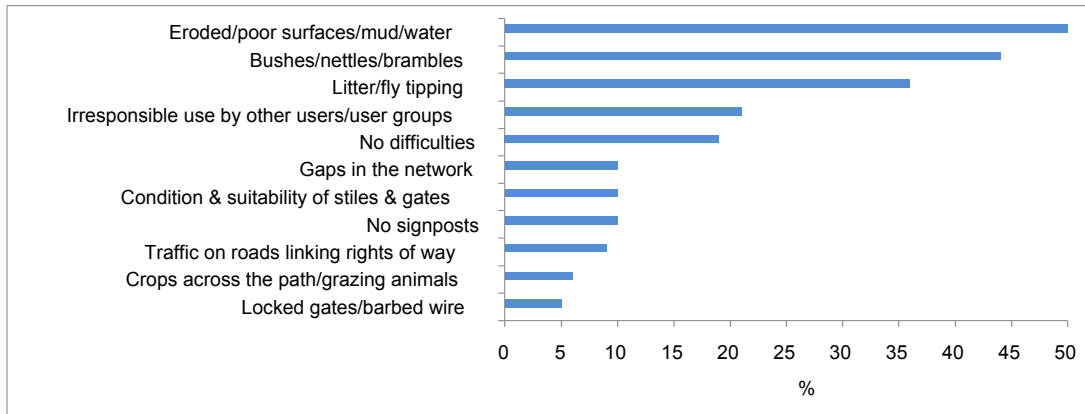
73% of Curridge residents valued access to open spaces, for example Faircross Plantation and half wished to see the pond restored.

Objectives:

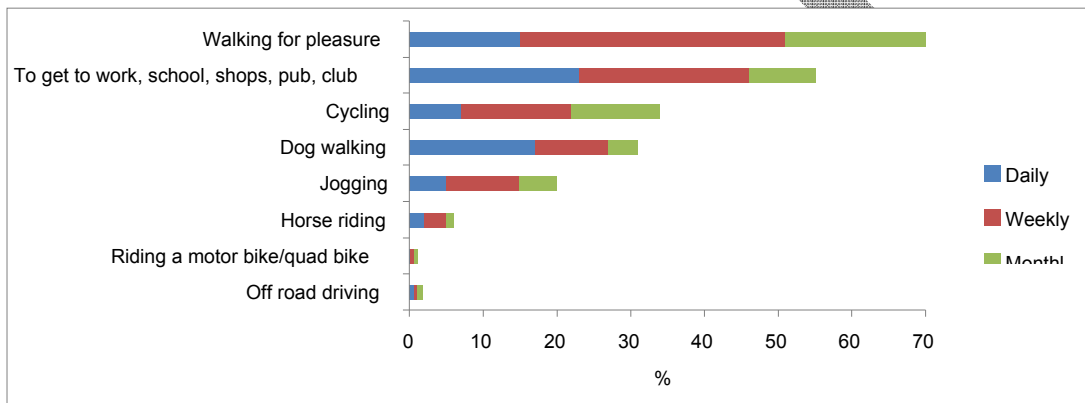
1. Investigate and seek solutions to disturbances affecting residents in the Parish.
2. Improve the PROW infrastructure and public transport service in the Parish.
3. Encourage more people to use non-motorised travel.
4. Promote and facilitate 'A plot holder's guide' initiative.
5. Promote and encourage protection of trees, hedgerows and the wildlife through education, promotion and policy documents.
6. Educate and promote the protection of the wild plants, birds and the countryside around Chieveley Parish.
7. Improve and protect the environment valued by the community through planning policy and community groups.
8. Preserve the rural aspects of our Parish.

Section H: Community Infrastructure

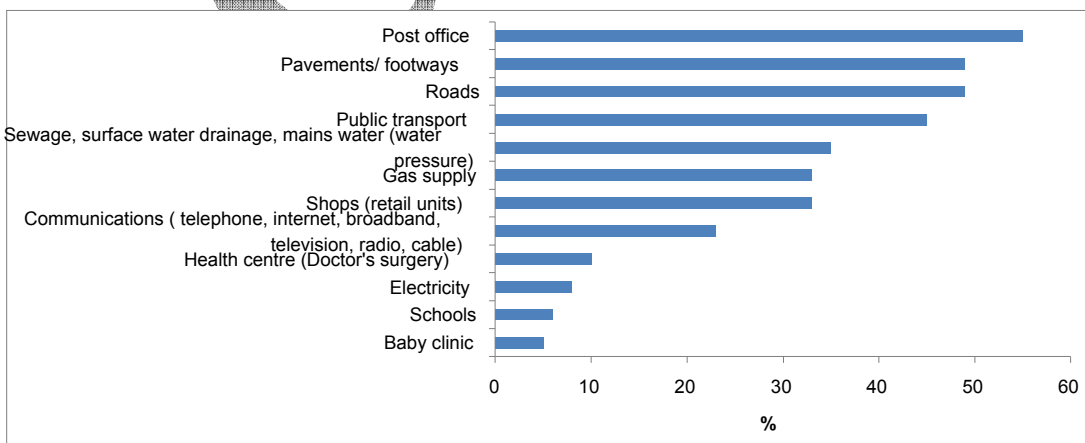
Q18 If you experienced difficulties when using local footways/ pavements, footpaths, bridleways and byways which, if any, of the following difficulties did you find? (1306 respondents)



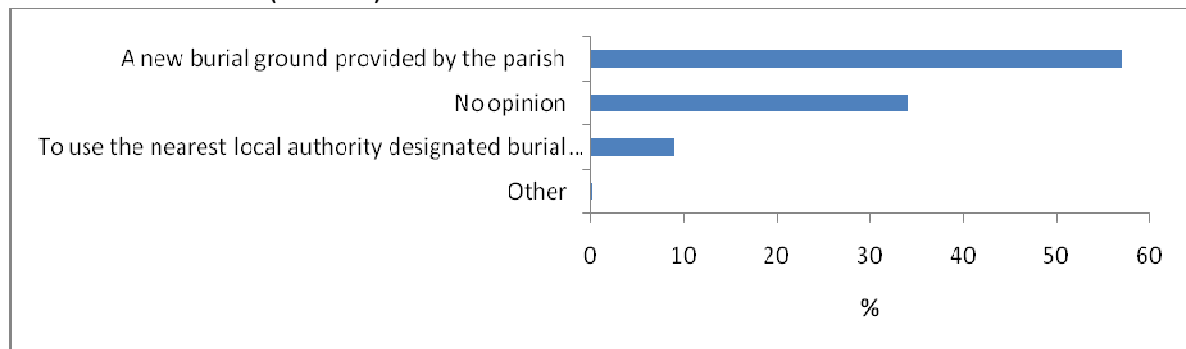
Q19 How often do you use local footways / pavements, footpaths, bridleways or byways in the Parish and for what purpose? (1327 respondents)



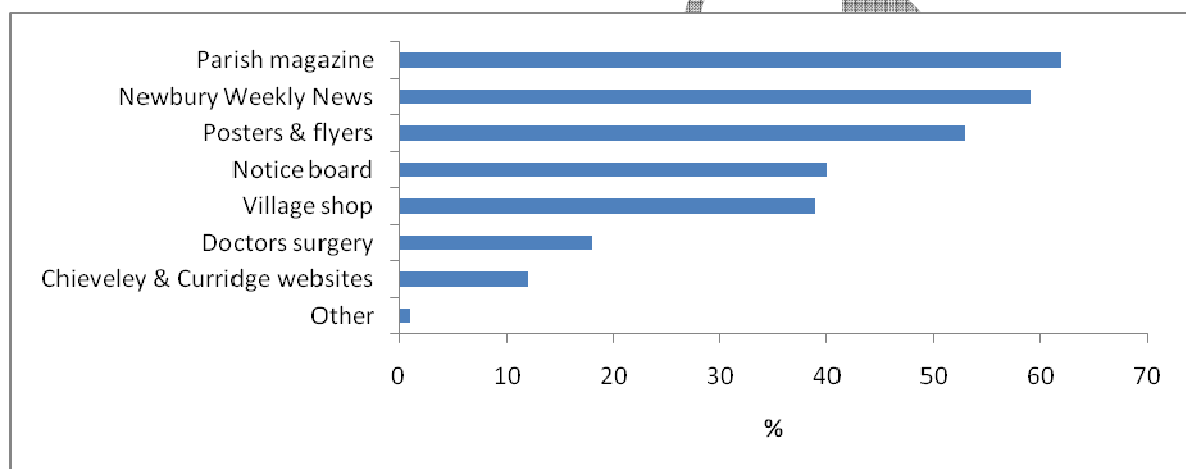
Q21 What facilities in the parish should be improved? (n= 1392)



Q 26 A burial ground in Chieveley will be closing as grounds are nearing capacity. What do you want to see done about it? (n= 1396)



Q29 Where do you usually get information about events (local affairs and facilities) taking place in the Parish? (1312 respondents)



Through the 'have your say days' residents generally felt their area was a safe place to live, with good community infrastructure and facilities. The majority of residents reflected the view that their communities have good social and communication networks and a positive community spirit.

Issues:

Whilst there is a general satisfaction with the community infrastructure, Parish residents wish to enhance certain facilities and improve the quality of lifestyle by developing the utilities available.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

The vast majority of respondents (82%) valued access to footpaths, bridleways and byways. Over half (55%) used footways / pavements, bridleways or byways to get to work, school, shops, pub or club on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. 71% used them to walk for pleasure. Other activities include jogging, dog walking, horse riding, cycling, off-road driving or riding a motorbike. The most common problem reported by just under half of the respondents was eroded/poor surfaces with mud and water.

Retail and Post Office:

Whilst a third of respondents would like to see improvements to local retail facilities, question 24 (Housing and Development) showed there is no clear desire to see out of town retail development within the Parish.

Over the last few years the community has been concerned about the temporary loss of the Post Office at 'Chieveley Village Stores'. Over 54% of the community would like to see this service reinstated.

Communications - Broadband

The Parish generally has access to broadband, However, the services had not been entirely efficient, and 25% of residents said it should be improved.

Sewage & Drainage

Sewage, surface water and mains drainage were a concern to 35% of residents. Water pressure in some parts of the Parish has been reported as very low and some localised flooding occurs regularly in particular areas.

Gas Supply

One third of the community have indicated an interest in a gas supply to the villages.

Chieveley Burial Ground

As the burial ground in Chieveley is nearing capacity the community have indicated quite strongly, (57%) that a new burial ground site within the Parish should be identified as soon as possible.

As sources of information from which local residents keep informed of local affairs, the Parish magazines, local newspaper, posters and flyers were identified as the most frequently used.

Objectives:

1. Improve and promote the main community facilities and services in the Parish.
2. Preserve and improve access to the countryside in the Parish using public rights of way.
3. Encourage more people to use non-motorised travel for health, recreational, environmental and economic reasons in the Parish.
4. Explore an opportunity to provide a burial ground in Chieveley.
5. Encourage clubs and societies to use the Parish communication structure.

6. The Next Steps

The Plan Steering Committee will meet at regular intervals to monitor and discuss the progress achieved by each Focus Group and update the group on latest developments. New projects may arise and may be incorporated into the work being undertaken.

This is an exciting new stage of the process and if you would like to be involved you can contact ...

Residents will continue to be updated about progress by village newsletters and websites or you can contact the team (see contacts page).

7.Acknowledgements

COC Steering Committee (Parish Plan Steering Committee)

Denis Butcher (PPSC Chair since June '09)
 Chris Carter-Keall (PPSC Chair until June '09)
 Will Hooper (Treasurer)
 Tracy Snook (Secretary)
 Janice Bridger
 Mike Taylor
 Paul Turner
 Kathy Titcombe
 Penelope Tomkins
 Jenny Wright
 Greg Rudman

Thank you for support and contribution from –

Sarah Ward (CCB)
 Andrew Singleton
 Jean Rush
 Nick Hodge
 Hilary Cole
 Jenny Collins
 Jean Rush
 Martin Lindeman
 Jean Fayle
 Nick Collins, Bill Duncan, Helen Smales, Denison Barracks
 Melissa Elliot– Greenham Common Trust
 Malcolm Buckland
 Greg Rudman
 Francis Wright
 Jeff Mead
 Teams of Distributors
 Dreweatt Neate (Carter Jonas)
 CCB (Rural Community Council) I & Countryside Agency
 Chieveley Village Hall
 W.I. Curridge
 Chieveley Church
 Parish Council
 Partners/ Suppliers
 Local Access Forum
 Rural Access to Services Programme
 West Berkshire Council

Thank you to the Community for all your support at events and giving us your feedback and comments.

Photographs & illustrations

8. Contacts

A copy of this document will be delivered to every house within the Parish. If you have any comments regarding this Plan, would like more information or would like to get involved, please contact us at:

Email: parishplan@mychieveley.co.uk

Post: 16 Middle Farm Close, Cheiveley, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 8RJ

Telephone: 01635 247507

The Parish Plan is available to view on line at www.mychieveley.co.uk and www.curridgevillage.co.uk and hard copies are held by the Parish Clerk

9. Abbreviations

COC Chieveley Oare & Curridge
 PPSC Parish Plan Steering Committee
 M.O.D. Ministry of Defence
 FGL's Focus Group Leaders
 AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 W.I. Women's Institute
 PROW Public Rights of Way
 CCB Community in Berkshire
 CRA Curridge Residents' Association
 LAF Local Access Forum
 CPCC Chieveley Parochial Church Council
 CRC Chieveley Recreational Centre
 WBC West Berkshire Council
 NDAS Newbury & District Agricultural Society
 HA Highways Agency
 BACYP Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People
 CPT Curridge Playground Trustees
 TVP Thames Valley Police

10. The Chieveley, Oare & Curridge Action Plan

11. Appendix I Chieveley Primary School Youth Questionnaire

Other relevant documents:

Village Design Statement
 Highway Agency's Oare Noise Assessment Report
 A34 Chieveley/M4 J13 Improvement Scheme Highways Agency Archaeology Report
 Housing Needs Survey
 Improving Informal Recreation and Non-motorised Travel using the Public Rights of Way Network in Chieveley Parish
 Rural white paper
 Skateboard Ramp Petition