



# Survey Results

80% Response for main survey (221 out of 275)  
75% Response for youth survey (27 out of 36)

A very successful response was achieved by the Parish Plan Group during the summer of 2005. The bulk of the completed surveys were handed in at the Feast in July and the remainder trickled in during August and September.

Many people added comments to their surveys and these showed that the issue of speeding through all parts of the village was the primary concern, with the possibility of street lighting also attracting a large number of adverse comments. In the youth survey the best part about Leckhampstead turned out to be the quietness, the lovely countryside and the friendly people while the dislikes were, unfortunately, the bullies and misbehaving boys who have upset so many of us during the past year.

## 1986 Survey

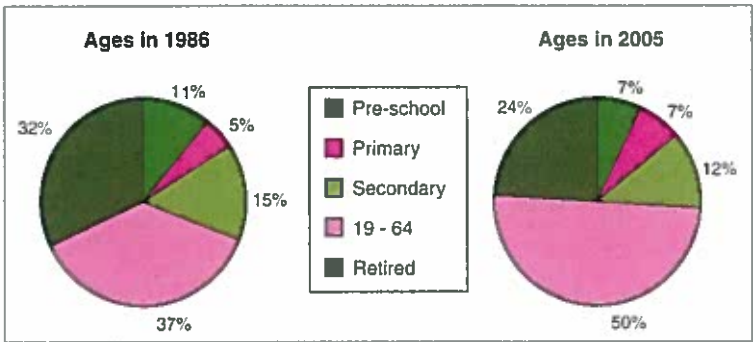
The last survey was done during 1986 - nearly twenty years ago. This survey resulted in a 60% response. At that time we still had a Post Office and people thought that a new village shop might be viable. One resident even suggested that it would be good to have a supermarket in the village. Even then there was only enough Post Office business to justify opening four days a week.

Grove Pit had just been filled in and it was thought that planting trees there would discourage further tipping - this has proved to be the case. The Commons were generally appreciated although there were some concerns about vehicles parked on them. Since then the Commons have been taken into the ownership of the Parish Council.

Special points of interest:	page
● How we view further development	4
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## Household - Ages...retired people not the largest group



The adult population has remained much the same as that in 1986 with just over 250 people on the electoral roll. This ensures that we have six parish councillors to represent us - less than 250 would mean we had five councillors.

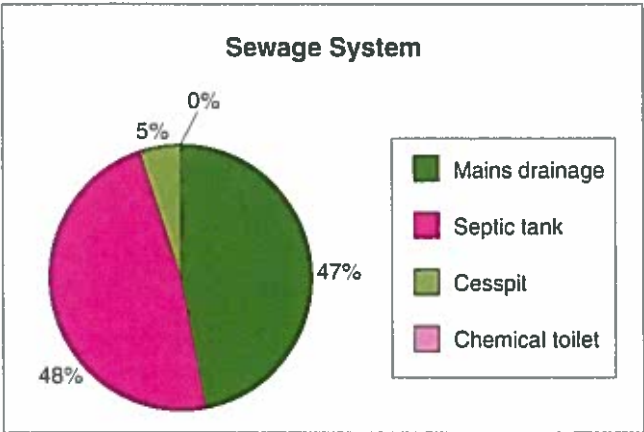
The make-up of the population has not remained the same, however. You will see that there is a greater percentage of adults aged 19-64 and a smaller percentage of retired people than there was in 1986.

## Household - No second homes identified

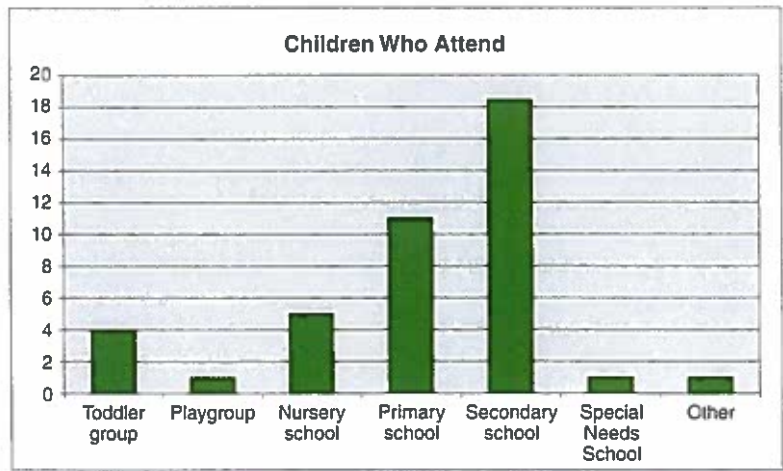
Types of housing identified in the community were: 89% owner occupied, 7% housing association rented, 3% privately rented, 1% tied or service tenancy and no second homes.

47% of houses were on mains drainage.

16% of houses were in Thicket and 12% in Hill Green. Six people had moved from the village in the last two years because of housing needs.



## Household - Schooling

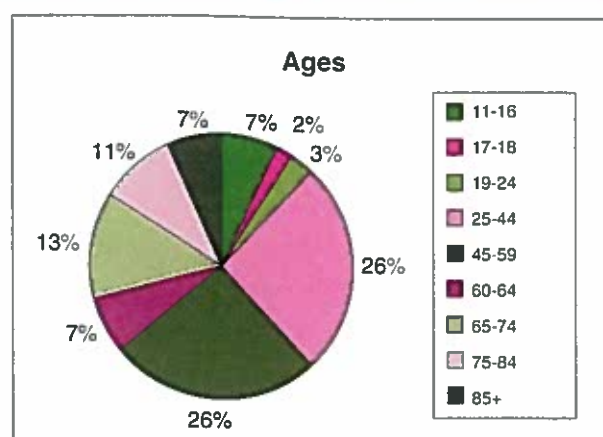


42 children and young people currently attend toddler group / play group, schools and college. These are reached either by car, shared lifts or school bus to a variety of places: Brightwalton, Chaddleworth, Compton (school bus), Newbury, Reading, Wantage, Abingdon, Pangbourne and Oxford.

## About You - 11 Years and Over

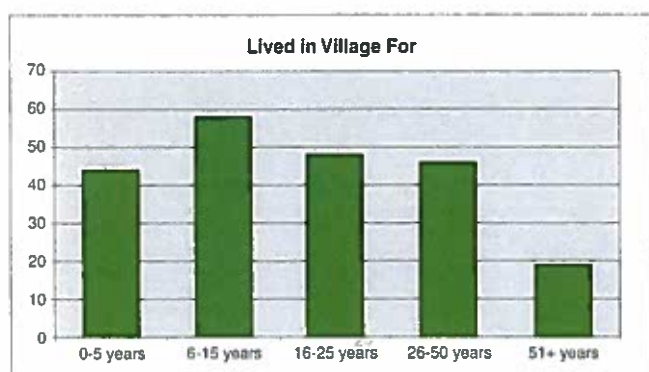
The sexes are divided roughly equally with 48% male and 52% female and the largest age groups are the 45-59 year olds (26%) and 25-44 year olds (also 26%). Working age people in the village amount to 62% of the over 11 year old population.

An impressive 52% have lived in the village for over 15 years, and just on 20 people have lived here for over 50 years!

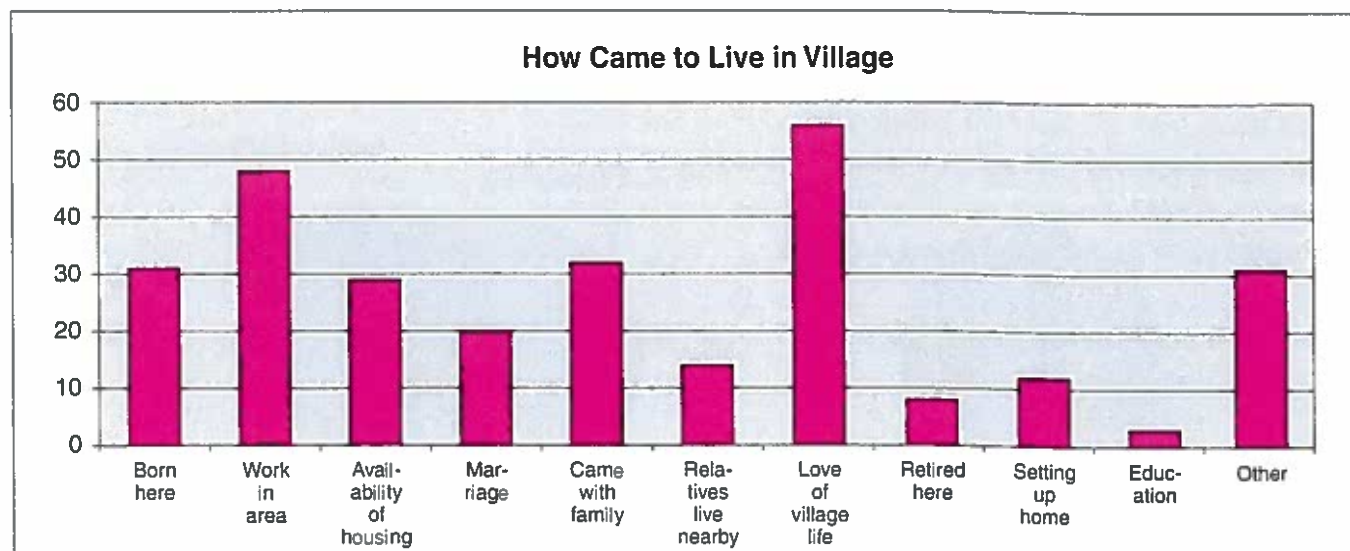


By far, the majority of people think they will live in the village for the rest of their lives.

It would seem that once people move to our village they are reluctant to leave and they appreciate the surroundings in which they live.

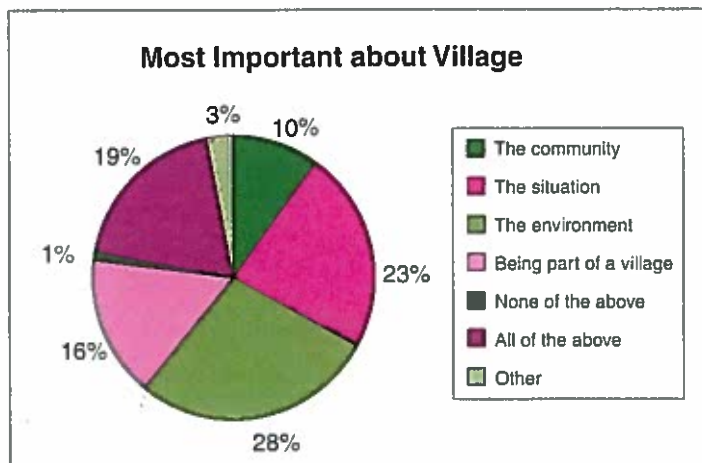


## Love of Village Life





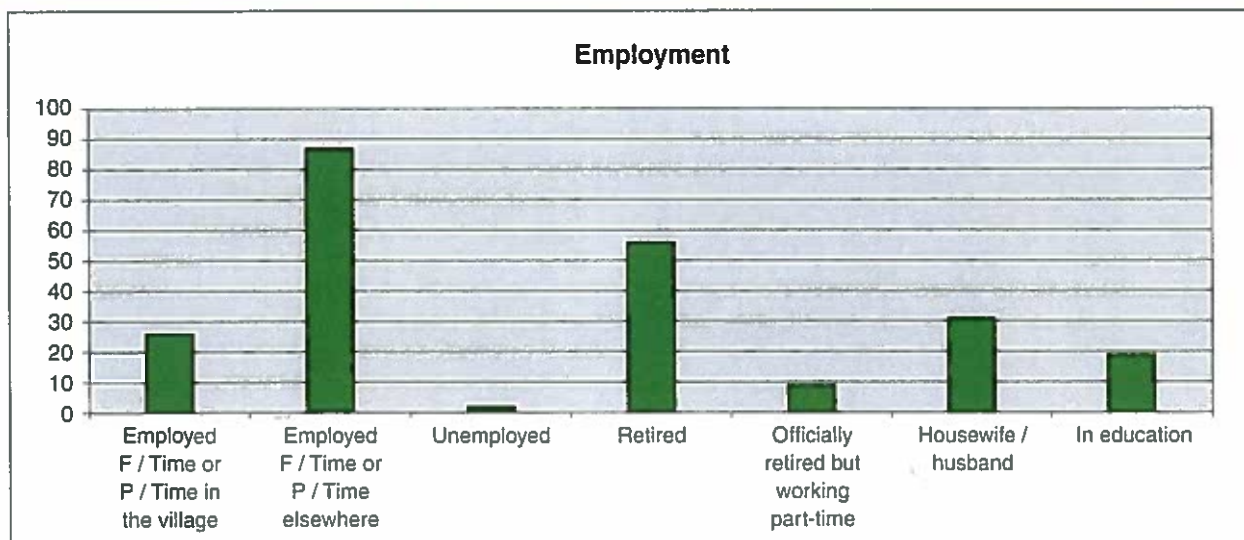
## Situation and Environment Most Important



The situation and the environment were identified by many as being the most important reasons for living in the village. An impressive 19% liked 'all of the above reasons' - see the pie chart.

In the Employment responses it is interesting to note that nearly 30 people work in the village and that there was only one person unemployed. The largest group travelled over 10 miles to work (32%), and 23% travelled less than 10 miles.

## About You - Work

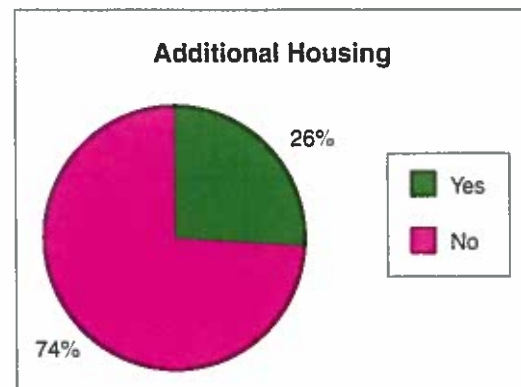


## No More Development?

When asked whether there should be additional housing in the village apart from 10 low cost housing homes the response was an overwhelming 74% against. 89% of the village housing is owner occupied, so there are a number of owner occupiers who would be in favour of some development.

In the 1986 survey there was more support for a few extra houses - in particular housing for the elderly.

The 10 low cost houses will represent nearly an 8% increase in the number of homes in the village and would be built through the Rural Housing Trust.



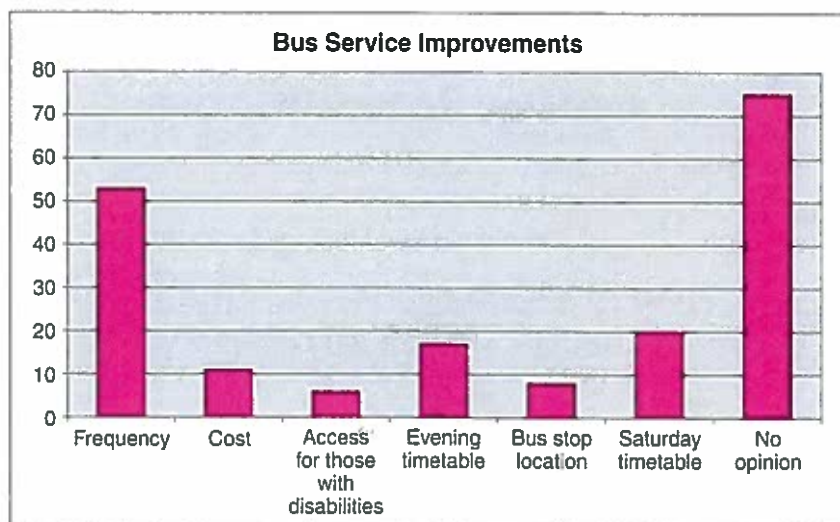
## Roads and Transport

Cars were the main means of transport used by a large majority. 23 people used taxis either weekly, daily or monthly whereas 16 people used the bus or post bus. 19 people used the train for work or for shopping and leisure. This demonstrates how important it is that travel tokens can be used for means of transport other than the bus.

8 people 'often' used the bus and 23 used it 'occasionally'. 7 people walked to work in the village. 4 people used the surgery transport regularly.



## Bus Service



Bus service route was rated as 'Good' or 'Reasonable' by most people but the Timetable was rated 'Poor' by 34 people. Better promotion and timetable could benefit the village and also promotion of the Surgery Bus, as very few people used this service.

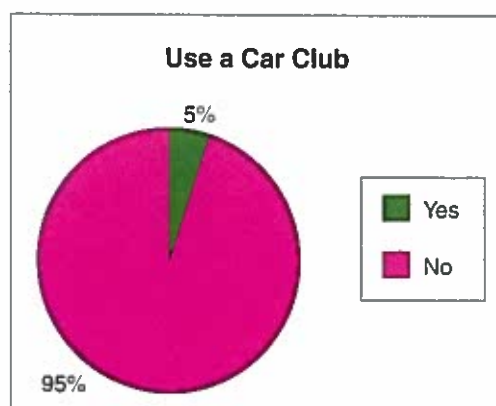
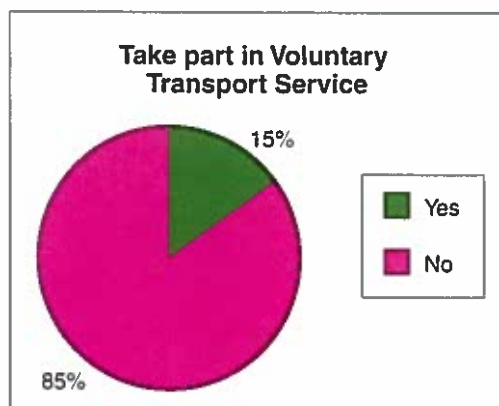
30 people used the medicine pick-up.

**"Poor or virtually non-existent bus service."**

**"Did not know there is a bus service daily."**

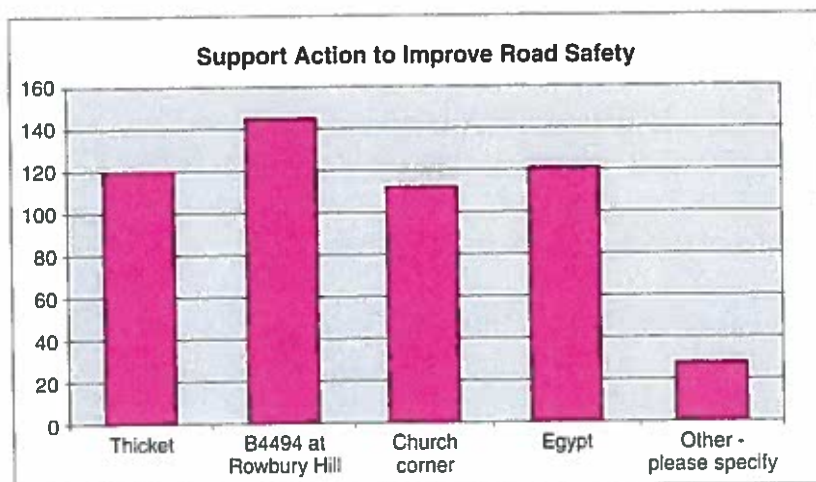
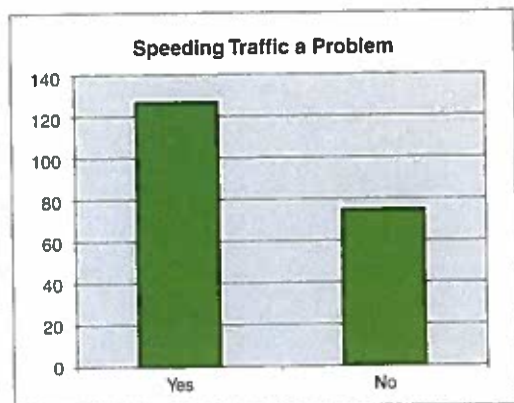
## Voluntary Car Transport?

As can be seen, the idea of setting up a voluntary car sharing scheme or a Village Car Club did not attract much support at all.



# Transport and Roads - Speeding

YES! Speeding traffic IS a problem!



## Speed Limits

**“Please NO traffic calming measures.”**

**“No traffic calming, please - it is hideous, unhelpful, suburban, expensive and pointless.”**

**“The road past Nuttingtons speed limit is rarely observed.”**

**“Let's have a flashing 30 mph/slow down at the School House end of Nuttingtons.”**

**“30 mph for whole village - yes, but NO traffic calming measures.”**

**“Thicket should be 20 mph or even 10 mph.”**

**“Should be a lot less than 30 mph for Thicket - to walk with dogs and children is very dangerous.”**

**“Safety measures at the bend between The Stag and Nuttingtons.”**

**“How could a speed limit be enforced??”**

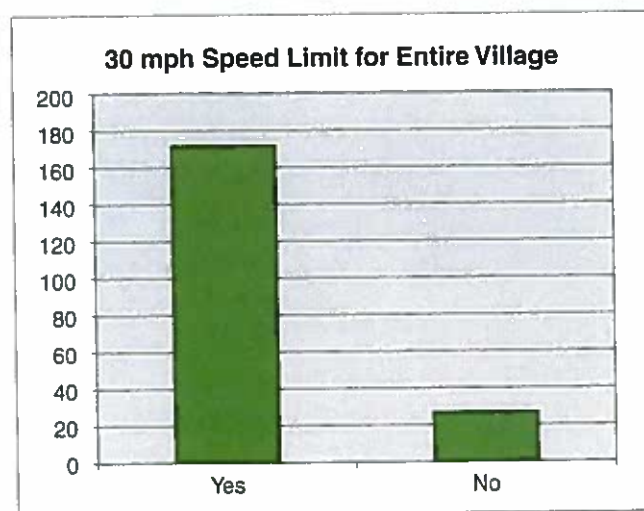
**“Include Egypt in 30 mph limit.”**

**“We need a 50mph speed limit on B4494.”**

**“Speed reduction along the B4494 especially by Egypt.”**

**“Twist in the road between Chapel Arch and Rowbury Hill needs improvement.”**

The issue of speeding and speed limits raised the most comments in the survey. Many people wrote variations on the quotes opposite.





## Sport - High Level of Interest

The results of the Sports Survey reveal that there is a desire to provide additional facilities. The results generally reflect the views expressed within the Youth Survey.

**Children's Play Area.** Only 1% of the respondents felt that the facilities currently provided were 'Good'. 35% of people thought, on the other hand, that they were 'Poor' while 37% had no opinion about the facilities available. It seems clear that there is a general dissatisfaction with the facilities available which is also reflected in the Youth Survey.

A large majority support the moving of the Play Area to the eastern side of the Playing Field to provide more space.

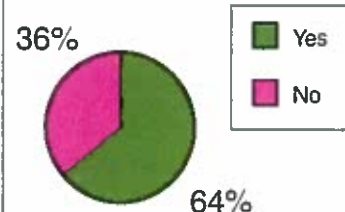
The number of people who support the provision of a skateboard area is not as large as the number who support the provision of other facilities as as only 64% supported it. The Youth Survey also identified that facilities such as tennis courts and an improved playground would be used more frequently.

There is a great deal of 'support for the provision of a sports pavilion in order to provide changing facilities for teams', to be used in conjunction with the facilities available at the field.

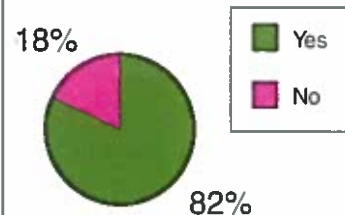
**Support Moving Children's Play Area**



**Support Skateboard Area**



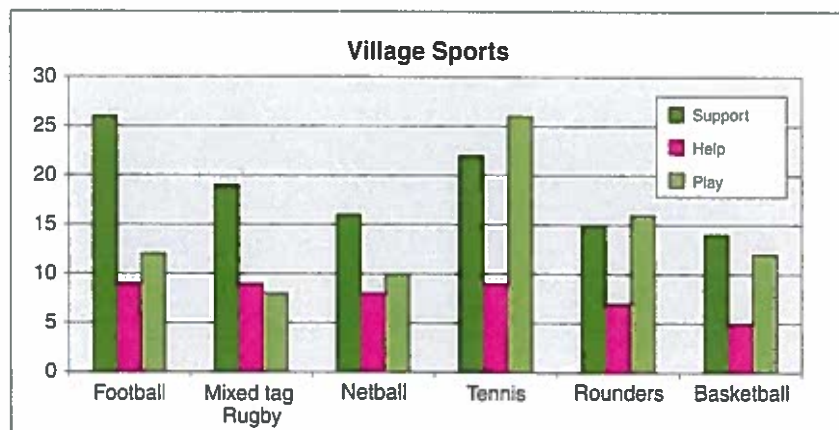
**Support Sports Pavilion for Changing Facilities**



**Children's Play Area Presently**



## Tennis most popular facility



There is a large group within the village who would play/support tennis, which is also reflected in the Youth Survey. A smaller number would play/support a local football team. Rounders, netball, basketball and mixed tag rugby also attracted good numbers of players and support.

# Leisure and Countryside

People were asked what functions in the village they currently are involved with or might help with in the future. The most supported function was the Feast with a great response (25% approximately) who were willing to help or who already take part in this traditional yearly activity.

The Christmas Raffle and Church/Chapel were also popular with the Harvest Supper, Barn Service and Seniors Christmas Lunch sharing the fourth most popular events. It must be remembered that some activities attract members from other villages - such as the Toddler Group, WI, Arts Group and Gardening Club although quite a few Leckhampstead villagers support the Gardening Club.

The question about which new clubs/activities villagers might like, of the 163 responses strong interest was shown in the following:

- A seasonal farmers' market (30%)
- A countryside club (18%)
- A flower and vegetable show (12%)
- A conservation group
- Dog training and agility

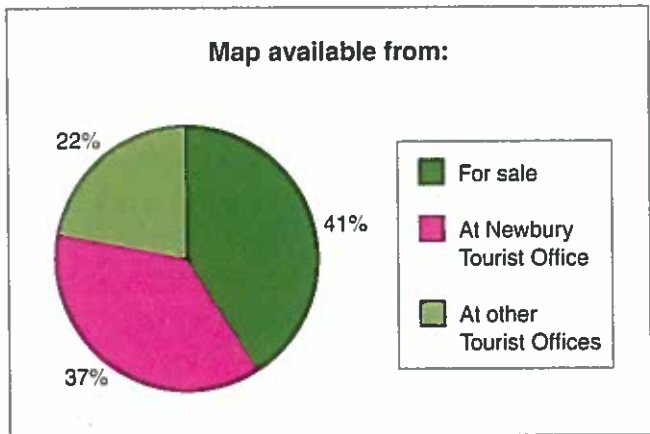


As we already have a fortnightly market in the Village Hall which was started just after this Parish Plan, it is hoped that this will fulfil that interest.

The next three items: countryside club, flower and vegetable show and conservation group are

similar and perhaps could be combined into one organisation?

Many people (79%) would support the production of a map showing all footpaths, bridleways and byways in Leckhampstead, Chaddleworth, Brightwalton and Peasemore. Although the Ordnance Survey produce a 2.5 inch to the mile map this would be a more manageable map with just the above routes shown and walks marked.



When asked if they were willing to help maintain footpaths 29 villagers indicated that they would. This is a very pleasing number and should be taken up as part of the Action Plan.

## Litter Collection

Many more people (57) said that they would be willing to help on Litter Clearing Days around the village. This is a wonderful response and demonstrated how much a clean village is valued.

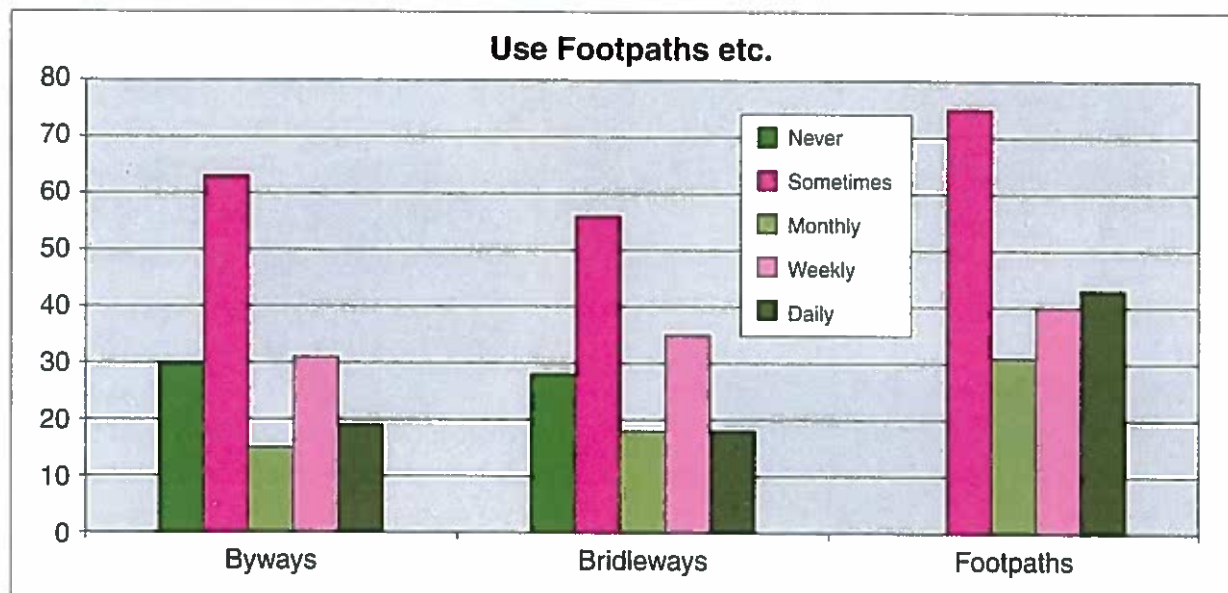




## Leisure and Countryside - use of Footpaths etc

Q53 The responses show that a large number of villagers use the footpaths on a regular daily basis - some 25%. The graph shows that a large proportion of the villagers use the footpaths, bridleways and byways and they are a much valued facility in this area.

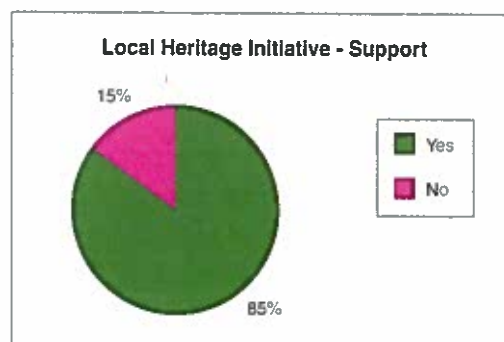
They are used for walking mainly (169) with 12 horseriders and 7 who use them for other purposes.



## Leisure and Countryside - Commons restoration

People were asked if they would support the application to the Local Heritage Initiative for money to support two years' work to restore Grove Pit Common and White Hill Common to a more grassy state, getting rid of a lot of dead trees and scrub and generally opening up the areas.

It is very pleasing to see that 85% support this initiative and that over 40 people have volunteered to help.



Work has already started. Any more people who would like to become involved please phone the Parish Council Chairman on 01635 248614.



## Amenities

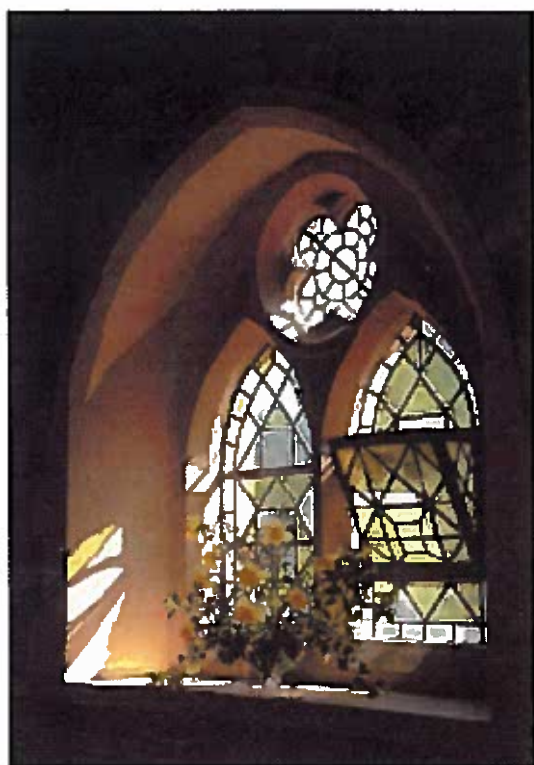
### Internet

Broadband arrived for all in the village in May 2005.

75% of people who responded use the internet in their home.

Of the remaining 25% very few were interested in using the internet at a communal site to access, for example, income tax and pension information, to do course work or to shop on line.

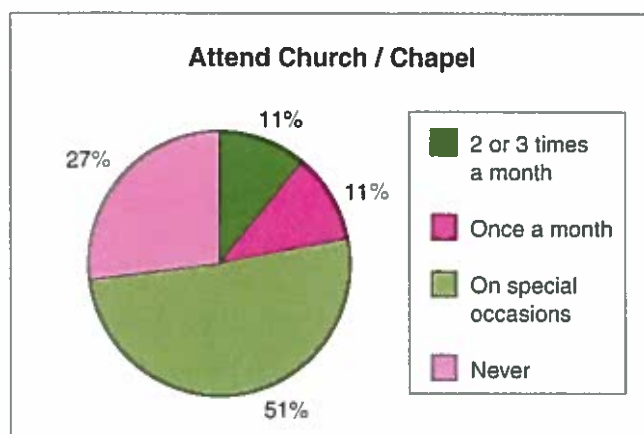
### Church and Chapel



94% of respondents felt that the church was important, with 22% attending each month and 51% on special occasions. Interestingly this means that 21% felt that the church or chapel was 'important' to a village, but never attend services.

55% of respondents do not envisage using the graveyard facility for burial or interment of ashes. It is open to all villagers regardless of their belief.

The wording of the questionnaire does not allow for differentiation between church and chapel attendance, neither does it quantify other religions.



### Adult Education

Overall there was very little interest in any adult education classes as set out in the questionnaire.

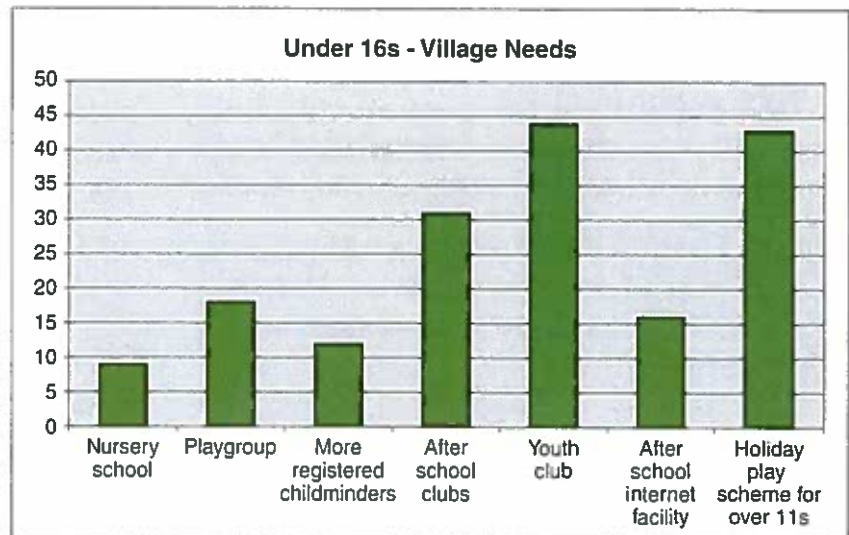
The only course that generated any interest would be one in First Aid where 58 people would welcome training and this should be included in the Action Plan.



## Amenities - Street Lighting not wanted!

### Facilities for under 16s

As can be seen the two facilities most requested are for a Youth Club - which has already been started and is running very successfully - and a holiday play scheme for over 11s. West Berkshire Council (WBC) used to run this type of scheme (called Splash) but this ceased about two years ago. Perhaps WBC could start this scheme up again and this could be one of the points in the Action Plan.



### Security

49% would like an increased police presence.  
38% would like a neighbourhood watch scheme.  
88% did not want street lighting as they felt that it would spoil the nature of the village. This question raised the second most comments and all were against!

**"If I had wanted street lighting I would move to Newbury!"**

**"Absolutely NO street lighting, please."**

**"It would just annoy me and I would not get any sleep so my school work would not be good."**

**"Please NO! How could we possibly ruin a rural village on the Downs more easily."**

**"Most important - tranquillity - NO street lights!"**

**"Completely out of character with the village and cause light pollution."**

### Shopping

Newbury is the major shopping town for residents.

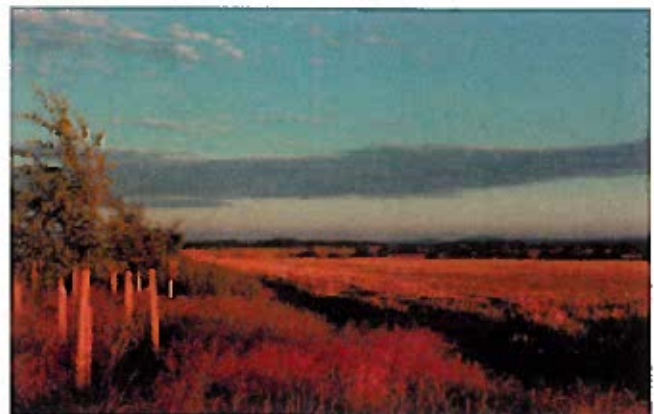
The majority of weekly shopping is carried out in Newbury, with a small amount in Chieveley, Great Shefford and Wantage.

Other shopping centres in the vicinity are used infrequently, although significant numbers shop in Reading, Wantage, Hungerford and Oxford 'less frequently'.

### Bins

When asked if they would use extra household bins replies showed:

- A large number would be interested in using a 'plastic' recycling bin
- A smaller, but still significant number would be interested in using a 'clothes' bin. As clothes can, at present, be put out for recycling it would suggest that further promotion is required.





## News and Communication

How effective are the existing methods of communication within Leckhampstead? These methods include:

- Parish Newsletter and Leckhampstead Special
- Word of mouth from neighbours and friends
- Village notice boards
- Local papers
- Leaflets
- Notices at The Stag

### Key findings were as follows:

86% of villagers are satisfied with the level of information that is currently available about events in Leckhampstead.

The most popular methods of event communication were the Leckhampstead newsletters (26%) and by word of mouth (22%) from neighbours and friends. 94% of villagers receive the parish newsletter and 81% of villagers receive the Downland Practice Patients newsletter. This demonstrates a good distribution process throughout the village.

The majority of villagers (78%) were happy with the frequency of the Leckhampstead Special and did not feel that it needed to be published more often.

26% of villagers said that they would prefer to receive a regular newsletter by e-mail.

60% of villagers said they would use a village website.



The majority of the residents in Thicket (69%) and Hill Green (66%) felt that their respective notice boards were adequate.

96% of villagers expressed a preference to have the results of this survey distributed to every household.

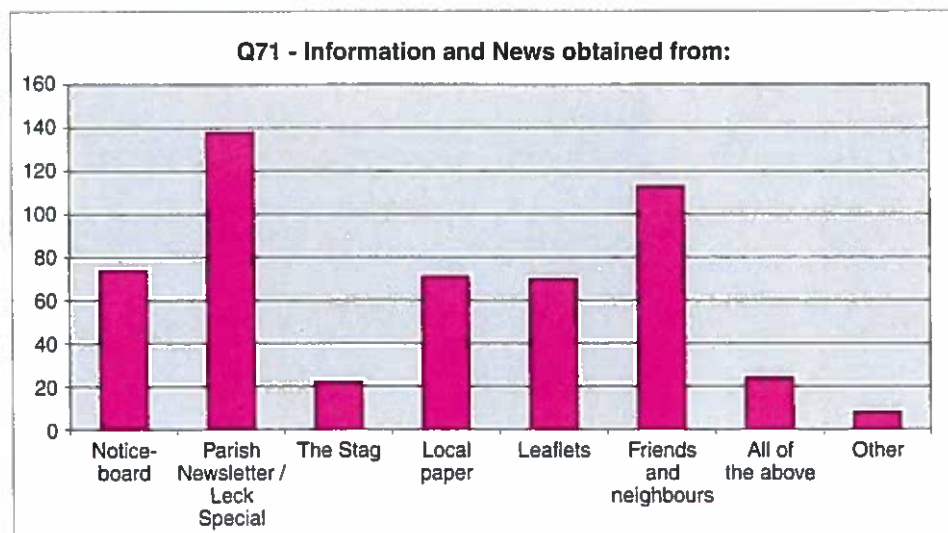
### Summary

It is evident that most villagers are satisfied with the level of information that is available within Leckhampstead. It is particularly encouraging to see that the parish newsletter is well read and that there are clearly strong relationships within the community, as a significant proportion of the village are informed about village events verbally.

Whilst existing methods of communication are good, the survey shows that the village is also keen to embrace new forms of communication. The suggestion of producing a village web site appears to be a popular one, and this would provide a cost effective and environmentally friendly information

point for villagers to peruse at their leisure.

With over a quarter of the village expressing a preference to receive a newsletter electronically, this offers a great opportunity to help the environment by reducing the print quantity of the parish newsletters.



# Youth Survey



From the results of the children's Parish Plan survey it is quite obvious that a lack of provision for the children in the village was a major issue and, to a large degree, the setting up of a Youth Club has provided them with a focal point. It has been run, to date, on a monthly basis, but we are increasing this to fortnightly because of its popularity.

In response to the question 'If you could wish for any change in the village what would it be?':

**"Youth Club more often"**

**"More things in the Playing Field"**

**"Add a tennis court to the Playing Field"**

**"Nets on the goals in the Playing Field"**

**"Skate ramp and other organized sports"**

**"If we could have a trampolining club"**

**"More activities and trips, eg, bowling alleys"**

**"The village hall should be bigger"**

**"To have better things to play on and better sports facilities"**

**"To have organized sports sessions for all the families"**

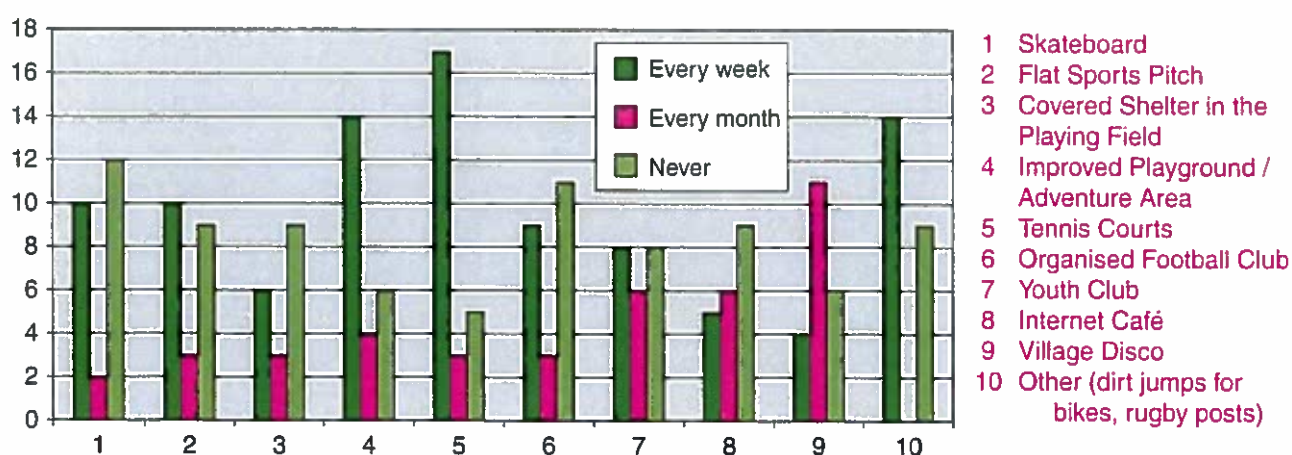
**"That the Playing field could be made more**

**interesting for 14 year olds and up because my friends and I like to hang out but there isn't much to do"**

Sports play a major part in the children's requests and, whilst some of these are being covered by the Youth Club, there are many more that would be good to have in the village. Tennis, basketball, skateboarding, playground facilities are all requested - and possible, with some provisions already being followed up. It would be good to know of any adults in the village who have an interest that they would be willing to share/teach to the youngsters.

When asked to give the numbers of their three favourite choices, the top choice was for Tennis Courts, followed by Improved Playground and joint third for Skateboard and Youth Club. Most second choices went to Tennis Courts, then Skateboard and third was Village Disco. Top third choices were Youth Club followed by Improved Playground and then Internet Café, Village Disco and Other-dirt jumps for bikes and rugby posts - all achieving the same number of votes. This ties in with the main survey where Tennis also proved to be the most popular sport.

**Q3 - If any of the following were in the village would you use them?**



# Youth Survey - What you Like Most

The youth element of the village obviously all love being in a village environment and relish the chance to be part of a community.

**"I like walking in the countryside with our dog"**

**"I like the countryside and the buildings"**

**"It is small and has beautiful views"**

**"I like where it is, the way it is tucked off a main road, and the layout"**

**"Being able to play outside because it is quiet and safe, being in the countryside, the Feast, the friendly community"**

**"Quiet and safe so mum will let us play outside"**

**"I like Leckhampstead because of the wild life, the footpaths and the nice people"**

More could be made of this with family activities and fun days being organized to involve a larger proportion of the village, It would be good for the older people of the village to come along and enjoy seeing the younger members involved in their activities.



# Youth Survey - What you Like Least

A major issue brought up by the children was the issue of bullying and vandalism by certain children in the village. This issue is being tackled in a variety of ways and it is hoped that positive steps will be made.



Meanwhile, take a look at this graph which shows what sort of jobs a large number of the young people in our village are prepared to do for others in the community.





## Suggested Points for Action

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1. To further the actions in the Local Heritage Initiative Commons Restoration Project:
  - Clearing, surveying, photographing
  - Recording oral history, exhibiting results
  - Producing maps of local walks
2. Renovate and improve the Children's Play Area by providing additional equipment including a skateboard area
3. Increase the dialogue with West Berkshire Council Highways Department concerning speed limits and signs in the village
4. Continue to press for a 50 mph limit on the B4494 and improved safety at Chapel Arch and Egypt
5. Support the provision of plastics recycling facility with glass and paper recycling collections
6. Continue to do everything possible to eliminate bullying and vandalism in the village
7. Investigate the provision of further social/sporting activities
8. Consider the provision of a sports pavilion for changing facilities for activities on the Playing Field
9. Set up First Aid courses
10. Investigate the possibility of starting a Countryside/Conservation/Flower and Vegetable Show group
11. Set up regular Litter Clearing days
12. Consider setting up a Footpath Warden scheme
13. Investigate re-starting the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or similar
14. To support any moves to improve the timetable of the bus service
15. To promote the use of the surgery bus and the medicine collection facility
16. To support any moves by West Berkshire Council to reintroduce the Summer Playscheme
17. To support the provision of a Play Group
18. To actively promote a village website whether on [www.ukvillages.co.uk](http://www.ukvillages.co.uk) or other site



# Leckhampstead Parish Council

## Parish Councillors

**Bill Whitaker - Chairman**  
**Edward Vince - Vice-Chairman**  
**Christopher Ball**  
**Ian Brown**  
**David Solly**  
**John Stephens**

**Clerk: Angela Sutton**  
**(01488 638285)**

**We're on the web:**  
**[www.ukvillages.co.uk](http://www.ukvillages.co.uk)**

The Parish Plan Group was set up by the Parish Council through the recommendation of Sara Ward from CAWB (Community Action West Berkshire) who has provided us with much help and guidance. Angela Sutton agreed to be the Group Co-Ordinator. A full Action Plan has now to be finalised using the action points set out here as a starting point and indicating short, medium and long term actions.

Come and put your ideas for action at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 16 March at 8 pm.

The Parish Plan will be presented to the West Berks Council Downlands Area Forum in spring 2006.



## Acknowledgements

Greenham Common Trust  
(photocopying the surveys, inputting the results and designing this Report)



Field Seymour Parkes Solicitors  
(for sponsorship to produce the surveys)

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