

# BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISHES



## PARISH PLAN REPORT 2012



LOTTERY FUNDED

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# Committee's Statement

Dear Resident,

The Steering Committee is pleased to present your household with a personal copy of our Broadwindsor Group Parish Plan. It contains the answers to the questions you wanted raised on the topics that you told us were important to you.

The questionnaire was carefully compiled after extensive consultation with residents, clubs and groups throughout the parish, and we would like to thank all those who contributed to this process.

We would also like to thank all those who completed the questionnaire and attended the Focus Group, without you we would not have been able to produce this plan.

The Committee would also like to express its thanks to all those who have provided us with funds to carry out this consultation and produce this report, especially the Big Lottery Fund, with its 'Awards for All' grant.

We have received invaluable advice from Dorset Community Action, and the support of Dorset County Council and West Dorset District Council through our Councillors.

We would also like to thank Broadwindsor Parish Council who granted us permission to conduct this exercise and have endorsed the contents of the report.

On a personal note I would like to thank all members of the Committee (their names are on the inside front cover of this report) for the amount of time and energy they have given to help produce this document. I can say everyone has made a valuable contribution and in doing so has made my role a pleasurable and easy one.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fraser Hughes', with a stylized, cursive script.

Fraser Hughes, Chairman



# Introduction

The Broadwindsor Group of Parishes in West Dorset consists of a collection of villages, hamlets, and farms lying on the borders of Somerset and Devon, roughly bounded by the Marshwood Vale and the rivers Synderford and Axe. Its landscape is one which all would recognise as quintessentially traditional England – a patchwork of hedgerows, fields, lanes, villages and farms, deep valleys and rounded hills, with a distant view of the sea from its high places. The parish is within close reach of the historic market towns of Beaminster, Bridport, and Crewkerne with their histories of artisan industry, and Broadwindsor itself was once a centre of sail making. At the latest count<sup>1</sup> there were just over 1,300 residents, well spread out in age and occupation, including about 30 children under the age of 4 and around 30 men and women over 90 years of age. Many of our residents come from families who have lived in these villages for decades, or even hundreds of years, but today the majority of our inhabitants have chosen to come and live here in more recent times.

Broadwindsor is a grouped parish council with the three parishes of Broadwindsor, Burstock and Seaborough, which disguises the fact that the villages of Blackdown and Drimpton also form part of our parish.

● **Broadwindsor** nestles beneath Lewesdon Hill, the highest point in Dorset. A lovely and lively community of some 300 households, it clusters around the four roads that meet in the village square. When the church bells ring on a Sunday, three of them are so old they would have been heard in the 15th century, well before King Charles II stopped off in the village on his dramatic flight from the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Today, Broadwindsor has a thriving Primary School, the White Lion pub, a renowned Craft Centre, and until recently a village shop.

<sup>1</sup>*Patient Register 2010 (the boundaries of this do not absolutely correlate with the Broadwindsor Parish Council boundaries and there may be minor discrepancies)*



*View to Lewesdon Hill across Broadwindsor*

● **Hursey** is the hamlet closest to Broadwindsor, with 40 inhabitants at the 2001 census. Its mixture of old and newer houses lie along the single lane that runs through this quiet settlement and past a working farm in to the countryside. The population ranges from families with young children to retired people. The ancient Hursey Common is home to wildlife and wild flowers, but also boasts a much loved sports field.

● **Burstock** ('Burewinestock' in the Domesday Book) is a hamlet of 35 inhabitants, located halfway up the south slope of the Axe valley west of Broadwindsor. Its single street has, at one end, a fine farmhouse with a 17th-century front and mullioned windows and at the other, the 13th century church of St. Andrew. Paintings of the village on the church's south wall suggest Burstock has always been much the same size. Many of the families whose names can be read on the gravestones in the churchyard still farm or live in the area. Those who have moved away often come back to visit, or to be christened, married or buried here.

● **Seaborough** is a 'frontier' hamlet and small parish of 65 souls, on the river Axe. Its boundaries lie with the Broadwindsor and Mosterton parishes in Dorset, and the Crewkerne and Misterton parishes in Somerset. Before 1896, it was in Somerset. At that time it had only one farm and its steep main street would have required great skill to manoeuvre with a horse and cart. Horses are intrinsic to Seaborough and it is home to several farms and a very successful racehorse training stable which provides welcome employment in the parish.

● **Blackdown** boasted a population of 58 at the last census in 2001. In mediaeval times, it was part of the 'liberty' of Broadwindsor and the 'tithing' of Childhay. It has a Chapel of Ease, consecrated in 1840 and until 1938 had its own school. Blackdown House started life in 1647 as a modest farm and has gradually been changed into the fine, large house it is today. There are various other farms and a structural steel construction company, which provide employment for the local population.

● **Kittwhistle** is a very small hamlet of 30 people, and lies along the B3165 just north of its neighbour Blackdown. It has two farms, a few houses and, famously, a garage which in 2012 is just 3 years off celebrating its 70th birthday.

● **Drimpton** is the second largest village in the parish, incorporating the former hamlets of Netherhay and Greenham, and lies on the river Axe. Greenham once housed a thriving flax mill, part of which still survives today as a factory manufacturing pet products. The village has two places of worship, St Mary's Church and the Netherhay Methodist Chapel. It has a pub too, the Royal Oak, with home cooked food and a skittle alley, and the Drimpton village hall is a vibrant social centre for clubs and local entertainment.

## Creating the Parish Plan

In 2011 a small group of residents, drawn from throughout the parish, working in a voluntary capacity and with support from Dorset Community Action and West Dorset District Council, decided to embark on a Parish Plan. They formed a properly constituted Parish Plan Steering Group and made a successful application to the Lottery Fund 'Awards for All' for funding for the project. This was enhanced by contributions from the Broadwindsor Parish Council, the Broadwindsor Jubilee Group, and local businesses. Initial public consultation meetings were held, not only in Comrades Hall

in Broadwindsor (one of which was attended by Oliver Letwin the local MP) but also at the village hall in Drimpton. The high attendances at these meetings demonstrated there was genuine interest in the project.

These initial consultations revealed what issues were important to local residents and along with additional responses from clubs and other organised groups in the parish, were used as the basis for devising a questionnaire. Once compiled, copies of the questionnaire were then hand delivered to all the households in the parish. The purpose of the exercise was to ascertain how residents wished to see the area in the future and thus to develop an Action Plan of what needs to be done to achieve it. The results of the questionnaire were collated into a spreadsheet, again by volunteers, and the findings were then analysed independently by Dorset Community Action.

65% of the households receiving these questionnaires returned them completed. The analysis showed that the great majority of replies came from the older sections of the community. As the Committee felt it was extremely important to get a balanced picture of parishioners' views it was decided to add to the information from the questionnaire by holding a small Focus Group to probe the attitudes of families and children from around the Parish<sup>2</sup>, and add to the knowledge we had of this important group.

This Broadwindsor Parish Plan Report reflects the rich variety of the parish and expresses its people's aspirations for the future.

<sup>2</sup>As is legally required, it was held in the presence of Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, who, by virtue of being the District Councillor for the area, has a data protection licence.

# Executive Summary

The overall impression gained from studying the responses to the Broadwindsor Parish Plan questionnaire was that people enjoy, indeed love, living here, but that there are also significant areas of discontent and a clear aspiration for improvement in others. To some extent, and under some important headings, priorities differ, especially Broadwindsor, and the outlying settlements.

The return of a shop and a pub to Broadwindsor was the highest immediate priority for most people who answered the questionnaire. (The latter has now been achieved and a voluntary group SOBS, Save Our Broadwindsor Shop, is working on the former).

However, the most obvious among the other problems raised were the number to do with transport, the poor and neglected road infrastructure, and traffic – issues which affect all members of the Community, from the youngest to the oldest. The concerns raised ranged from bad drainage and potholes<sup>3</sup> in roads, to excessive traffic speeds, the condition of the lanes, the inadequate provision of public transport and the effect of larger farm vehicles and HGVs using the roads.

There was a substantial group in the community as a whole who would like to see more – and more affordable – housing in the area. (There is a current national debate on how much more housing rural communities could and should provide. It focuses on the idea that they should be able to sustain an additional 5%). Neighbouring communities have started down this route and could be helpful in formulating policies and consultation.

Underlying this, no doubt, was the frequently expressed desire to keep younger, working families with children living in this rural area.



*Broadwindsor's most valued amenities*

As well as suitable housing and development of small businesses, the services and facilities mentioned by this section of the population included public and concessionary school transport, provision of clubs and activities, and recreation grounds.

Throughout the community in fact, the suggestion that the parish might promote the development of new small businesses and industry was – by and large – welcomed by respondents. In this context it was also interesting to see how universal the demand was for better broadband and mobile reception – particularly in the outlying villages, as well as the willingness of residents to see new telecommunications masts in their localities.

<sup>3</sup>Many residents will have been glad to see the arrival of the resurfacing teams around much of the parish. They arrived just two weeks after the deadline for filling in the questionnaire!

# The Findings

## YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD

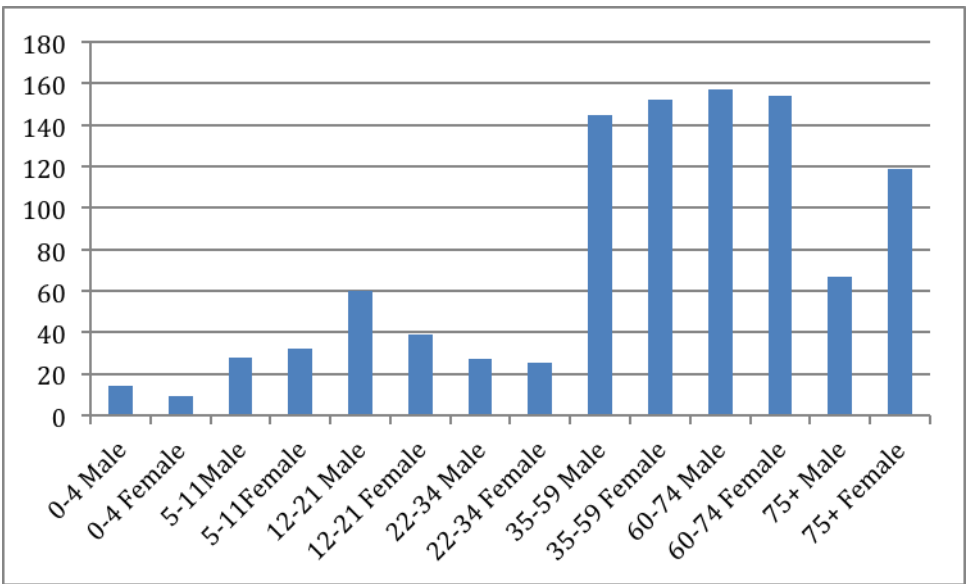
The questionnaire was delivered to 684 households with 444 being returned, making an excellent response rate of 65%. The response rate was universally high throughout the parish (Hursey & Burstock 76%, Seaborough 73%, Drimpton, Netherhay & Greenham 66%, Broadwindsor 64%, and Blackdown, Kittwhistle, Horn Ash & Pilsdon 57%).

At the last census in 2001, the total number of people living in the parish was 1014<sup>4</sup>. The table below illustrates the composition by age and gender of today's households based on the questionnaire returns. From this it can be seen

that the respondents came from households that were overwhelmingly middle aged or older and that very few of these households had young children.

Whilst it is true that the parish has quite a high percentage of elderly people it is also the case that families with young children were greatly under-represented in this survey<sup>5</sup>. Because of this, as mentioned above, the Committee decided to explore the views of families through a Focus Group. Whilst their views cannot be represented statistically beyond what has been drawn from the questionnaire responses, their opinions are reflected in this report through quotation and factual evidence.

### **Composition by age and gender of households answering questionnaire**



<sup>4</sup>Based on National Census 2001

<sup>5</sup>We are assured by the District Council that this is actually quite common and it does not invalidate the results of the survey.



Respondents were also asked how long they had lived in the parish. The answers varied considerably, from one year to 96! (Under 5 years 21%, 6-10 years 21%, 11-19 years 21%, 20-30 years 14%, over 30 years 23%). As many people had lived here a relatively short length of time this suggests, perhaps, that the parish is a popular retirement destination. However, the consistent school roll of around 90 indicates that a large number of families with children also choose these villages as a good place to live.

## Home Ownership

For all but 2% of respondents this is their main home<sup>6</sup> and suggests quite a high response from second home owners as, according to the 2001 census 4.6% of homes in Broadwindsor parish are second homes.

88% of respondents own their own home, 9% rent from a Housing Association, and 2% have shared ownership. The remainder

live in privately rented accommodation. The vast majority of Housing Association tenants live in Broadwindsor itself with a handful in Drimpton. The figure for owner occupation is somewhat higher than from the 2001 census (72%) but again it is common in these types of survey for owner occupiers to be over-represented and those in social housing to be under-represented.

The main source of home heating is oil, followed by electricity, with wood close behind. Only 13 houses have solar heating so it will be interesting to see if, and by how much, this figure changes in future years. 38 people use LPG (from tanks or gas cylinders). There is no mains gas in the parish.

## Employment Profile

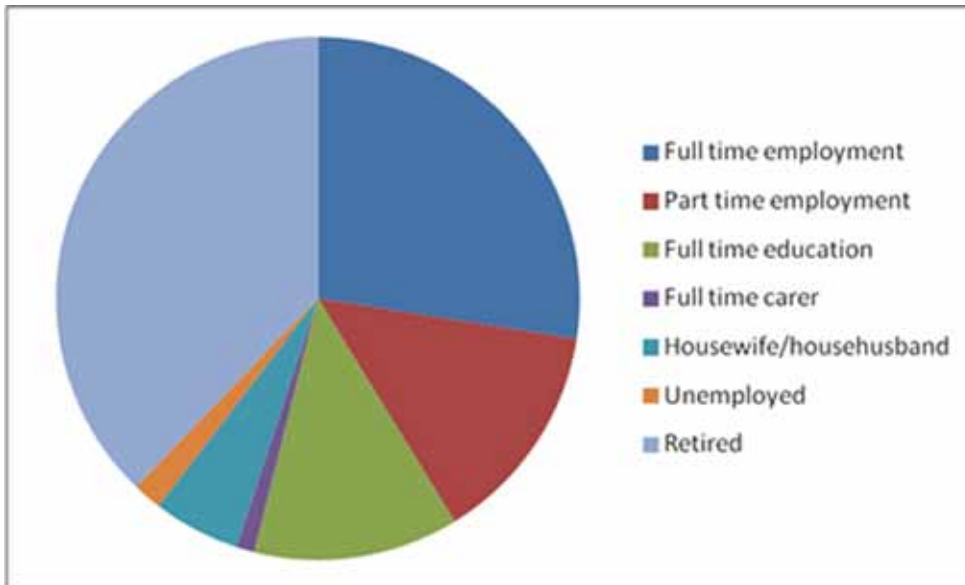
Given the age profile of the respondents to the questionnaire, the breakdown of statistics on employment is not surprising.



*88% of the Parish residents own their own homes*

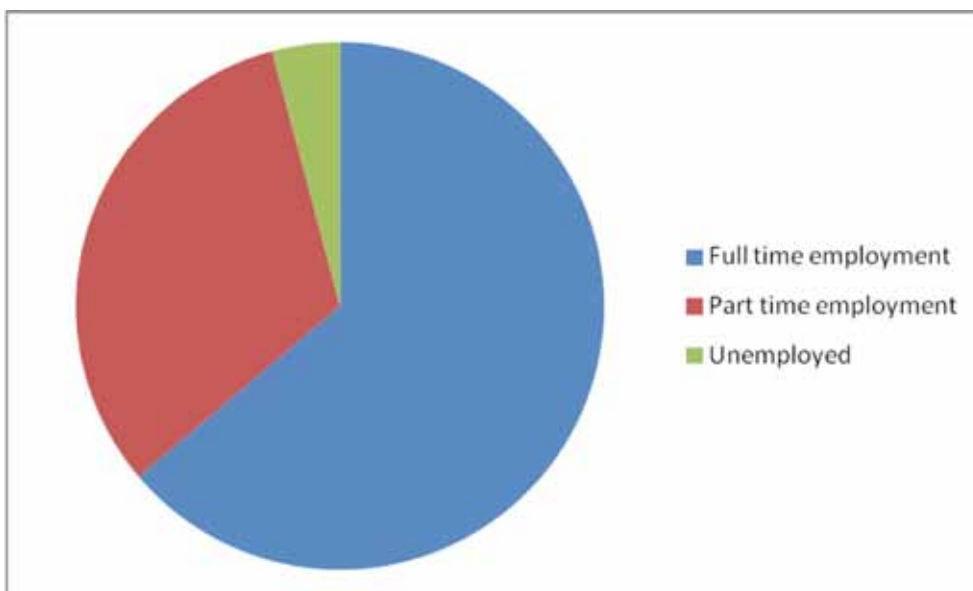
<sup>6</sup>33 homes out of a total of 650 were second homes in December 2011

### ***Working status of respondents***



As the table above shows, almost half of respondents class themselves as retired and only a relatively small proportion are in full time work. However, if one excludes the retired, full time carers, and those in full time education etc. it is also clear, as the table below shows, that, of those in or seeking work, by far the greatest number are in full time work.

### ***Status of those in or seeking work***



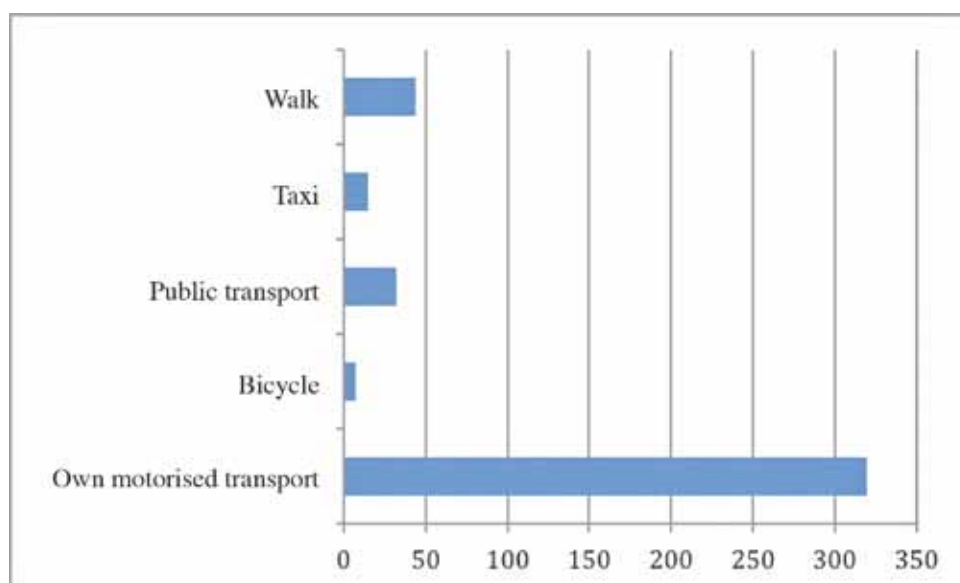
It is worth pointing out here that there are a lot of people in the survey who think the parish needs more local job opportunities - expressed through the strong response in favour of developing small business and industry.

## Travel to Work and Education

On average, parish households have 1.5 cars each, but this average disguises those who have no car amongst those who have 2 or more.

The majority of respondents travel to work or education by car as the table below shows.

### ***Means of transport to work or education***



A surprisingly large number of respondents nevertheless walk (44) although this figure presumably includes children attending the local primary school.

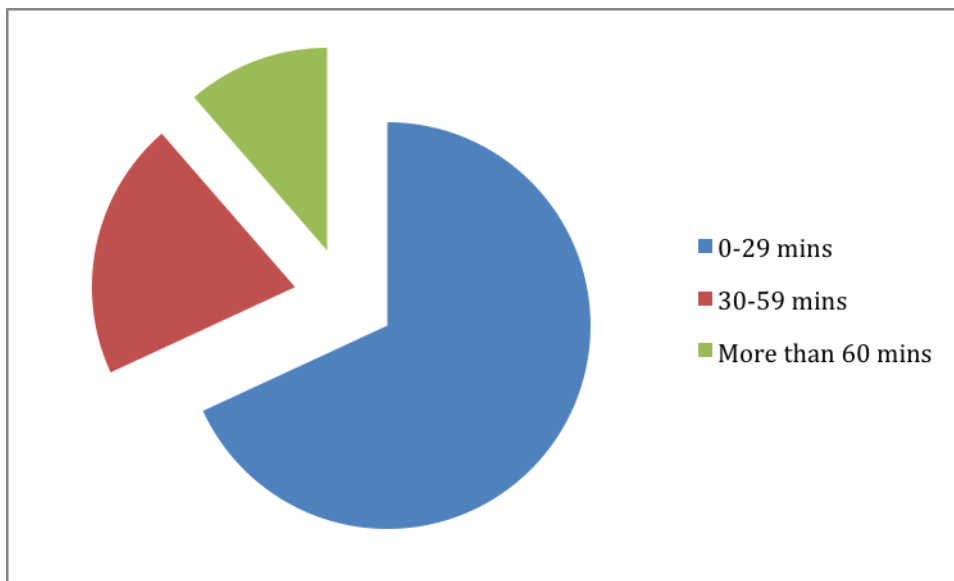
The next response suggests a reason why walking might be relatively popular as a means of getting to work or school. This asks the main location of work or education. For those who gave replies to the means of transport it shows that almost a third of respondents work

or study in Broadwindsor itself or very nearby. For those travelling other than by foot it reveals Beaminster is a less popular destination than Bridport, although not by much, and other destinations include Lyme Regis, and Crewkerne and Yeovil in Somerset, plus many others. Around 10% of respondents seem to work very far from home, listing places such as London, Oxford, Southampton, “nationally” and “the South West and Wales” as their places of work<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>7</sup>Some people wrote that they worked from home, but it is not clear whether those who wrote Broadwindsor were also possibly working from home. Thus it is not possible to deduce from this how many home workers there are in the parish.

Respondents were then asked about their average travel time to work or education. The response to this question is very interesting as it shows that 68% have less than a half hour journey to school or work. One reason for this of course is that both primary and (most) secondary schools are very nearby, but it nevertheless reinforces the picture painted above, of a lot of very local employment being available.

### ***Average travel time to work***



### **Particular concerns about transport to education**

The picture painted by respondents and by members of the Focus Group is one of serious frustration with the provision of transport for school children and even more for those over sixteen who are trying to continue their education.

Those children who attend Broadwindsor School and who live over two miles away are not eligible for school transport. For secondary school attendees, the worst problems are for those studying at Woodroffe, where parents have to get them to and from the coach pick-up point at the Rose and Crown at Birdsmoorgate.



*The school bus, but not for all*

For those over sixteen, there is no concessionary public provision at all, which means parents have to pay for travel – which is a disincentive to encouraging further education - or take the student to college, a problem for working parents. One mother commented: “The school bus picks up my 13 year old, and I have to follow on in the car to take my 16 year old.” In one village, the school bus has stopped altogether.

## Bus Transport

According to the survey results just over 40% of households have someone in them who uses public transport. This figure is lower in the more outlying areas - 19% in Seaborough, and correspondingly higher in Broadwindsor at 43%, and Drimpton 44%. This is less surprising when you know that no bus visits several of the villages in the Parish, a source of serious discontent, as shown on next page.

Transport polarises views - of public transport users, 58% are either satisfied or very satisfied with it, while the other 42% are either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Within these figures,



*Drimpton buses only serve Somerset towns*

the number of “very dissatisfied” (24) is greater than the number of “very satisfied” customers (13). Interestingly the vast majority of “very satisfied” customers live in Drimpton, where there is nonetheless also a substantial complaint that their bus service only goes to Somerset towns. The satisfaction/dissatisfaction rates would therefore seem to reflect whether respondents live in the bigger or smaller and more outlying villages. This is borne out by examination of the responses from the more rural settlements and by evidence from the Focus Group.



Although no specific question was asked about the train service several people took the opportunity to mention it, in particular to request more co-ordination between the bus times and the train times. This may blur the responses about public transport, as the responses concerning buses are so universally hostile, whereas the train appears to be more popular.

A frequent complaint is the lack of *useful* buses.

*"We live in Drimpton/Blackdown, which is in Dorset, but the only public transport we have gets us to towns in Somerset";*

*"The buses don't correspond to train times";*

*"My son has a Saturday job, but he can't get the bus home"*

*"We need joined-up thinking about rural transport".*

Residents of Seaborough, Burstock and Blackdown lament the lack of any bus service.

What people want most is that there should be more frequent services, "demand-led rural transport", buses "to more convenient places and at more convenient times", and for all school attendees, consistent, concessionary places<sup>8</sup>.

## **Traffic Problems**

65% of respondents consider there to be traffic problems in the parish. People living in Blackdown, Drimpton and Broadwindsor feel particularly strongly about this. Speeding was the most commonly cited problem with inconsiderate or dangerous parking particularly in Broadwindsor Square and outside the school. The increased number of HGVs and the volume of farm traffic were also quoted as causes of problems.



*HGVs too wide and often too heavy for our narrow lanes*

<sup>8</sup>It was noted at the Focus Group meeting that there is a Beaminster Youth Club bus and that other communities (e.g. Marshwood) provide the possibility of group taxis or small buses. There was interest in setting up a parish sub-committee to look into solutions to these problems and the issue of school transport.

People were asked what they thought were the best ways to tackle speeding.

Close to 70% of respondents want the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit through the villages.

Many thought that the speed limits should be extended further beyond village boundaries, and mirrors placed at dangerous bends.

Almost a third thought warning signs were not good or frequent enough.

Reducing the speed limit outside the villages was not rated a popular suggestion<sup>9</sup>.

Respondents were then asked to name any particular traffic black spots in the parish and to put forward suggestions for dealing with them. There are a number which reappear over and over again:

● **Hollis Hill** was mentioned by many with suggestions for improvement including reducing the speed limit, introducing pinch points and putting in traffic lights.

● **West St and Drimpton Rd** also get frequent mentions with the most popular suggestion here being a mirror on the wall. "Traffic from Drimpton travels too fast, has no vision into West St. traffic and vice versa. Suggest a mirror on the wall."

● **Clandon Hill**

● **The B3165 from Horn Ash to Birdsmoorgate**, with particular mentions of **Racedown Hill and Horn Ash Cross Roads**

● **The Netherhay Cross Roads**

● **Broadwindsor Square**

● **The junction outside the Royal Oak in Drimpton**

In addition to the above, concern was expressed at the damage being inflicted on Common Water Lane by the 'Off Roaders' who were seriously destroying the verges, banks, and plants of the lane.



*Unwanted 'Off Road' visitors do untold damage in Common Water Lane*

<sup>9</sup>This might not apply for residents living between Horn Ash and Birdsmoorgate, see following on 'black spots'.

# HOUSING, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The census of 2001 and now the Broadwindsor Parish questionnaire demonstrate that this is an area of mixed communities, with a combination of working and retired people, families, and homes without children. The fact that so many people appreciate their community shows that they value this mixture of people and that we need to plan to maintain it into the future.

## Housing

390 households answered the question: "Do you think there is a need for more housing in the Parish?", with 46% answering, 'Yes'. People living in Drimpton, Childhay, Burstock and Seaborough are more likely to want more housing than those living in Broadwindsor. Of those who answered 'Yes' more consider the need to be for low cost affordable housing

than any other option suggested. The most favoured development is in small groups of fewer than ten houses. Large groups, even "carefully designed large groups" are not at all popular.

There was also strong support for housing from the Focus Group, whose membership reflected all the villages and a younger age group. "We've got to have more housing," said one participant, and another went further: "We need affordable housing, but it should be created in perpetuity to prevent people selling after 6 months to those outside of the community." In this group, there was also strong support for a relaxation of the planning guidelines which relate to farm buildings being converted for permanent living, and for the recommendation currently being canvassed that villages should be able to accept a 5% increase in housing.

## Business and Industrial Development

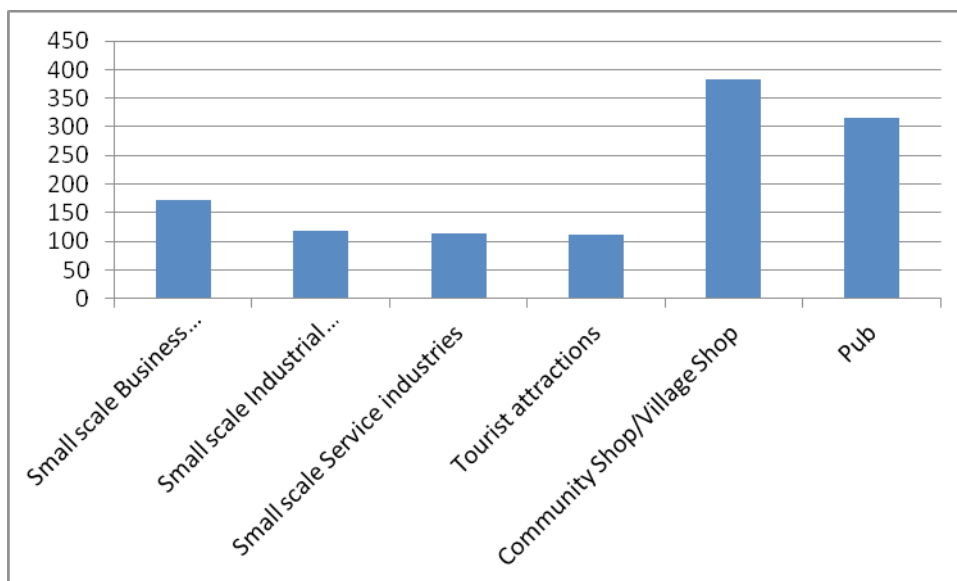
Reading the responses to the questionnaire, it would appear that shop and pub issues are of far more interest to parishioners than small scale businesses or industrial workshops etc. However, this may reflect the immediate problems uppermost

in people's minds when the questionnaire was distributed. Nonetheless it is striking to see that over 150 people wanted to see small scale business and over 100 would welcome small scale industries. Taken with the roughly similar numbers who want to see more housing, this suggests an ambition in the Parish to welcome new investment in its economic life, particularly in the more remote villages.

*More small businesses needed*

A resident of Netherhay expressed the opinions of many: *"We should support small business and developments, with houses for younger families and younger people."*

### ***Should any of the below be encouraged in Broadwindsor parish?***

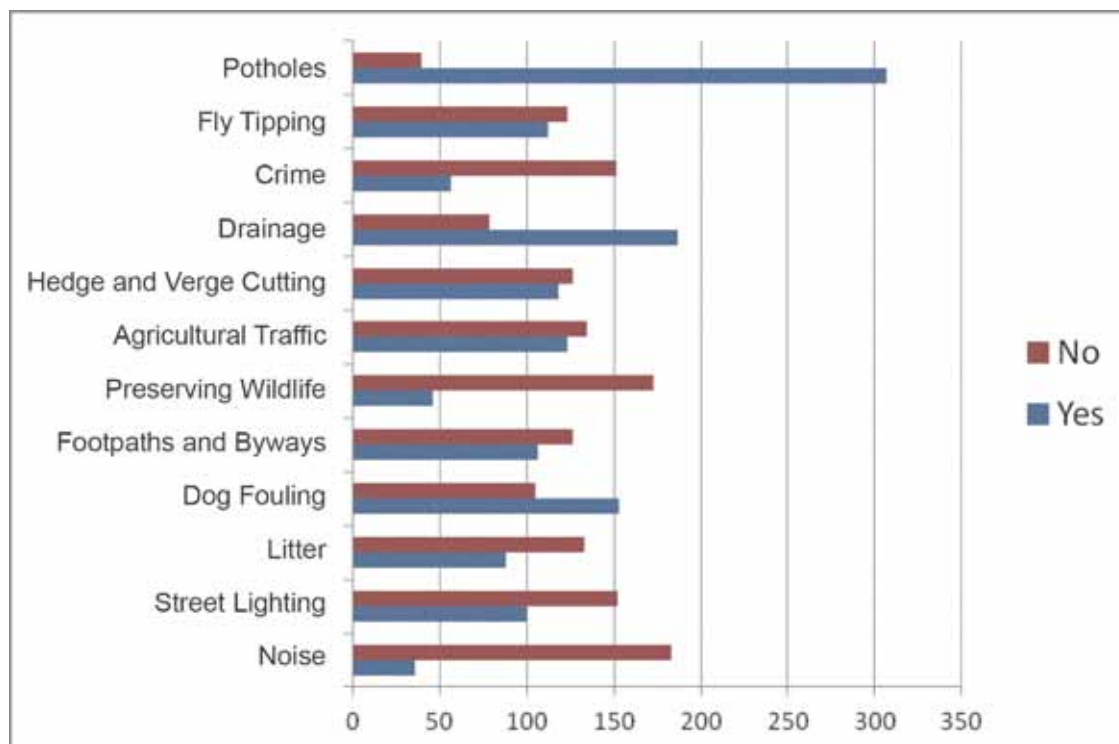




# Local Environmental Issues

A major area of questioning in the survey was to solicit people's views on local environment issues.

## ***Environmental issues of greatest concern***



It can be seen that the condition of the local infrastructure and roads in particular is by far and away of greatest concern. A total of 307 respondents said there was a problem with pot holes and 187 people considered drainage to be an issue, the next highest response rate. However, opinion is fairly evenly divided as to whether agricultural traffic or hedge and verge cutting are problematic.

Noise is evidently not an issue in these villages and opinions on street lighting depend on whether you live in Broadwindsor (where it is), or, for example, Childhay, where, perhaps not surprisingly, it is not a problem.

Respondents were then asked to provide further details on these problems. Many just reiterated their point whilst others explained where in particular they considered there to be a problem, or what they considered to be the cause.



*The recurrent pothole problem*



● **Potholes:** Netherhay Lane, Oxhayes, and the bottom of Chard Rd are given as areas where potholes are a particular issue. (Resurfacing took place in Broadwindsor, Burstock and Hursey just after the survey was completed, so it is to be hoped those parishioners are happier now.) But it is a parish-wide problem and reflects irritation at a perceived lack of investment in maintaining the state of our lanes and roads which is a major preoccupation of a community that travels a great deal by road. Clearly, respondents would wish to see more money spent on their upkeep.

● **Drainage and surface water:** many people explained that they considered the problem to be caused by weeds, litter or other debris blocking the gullies. Hollis Hill and Drimpton Bridge were mentioned as being particular black spots. Lack of road maintenance by the County Council and excess surface water are also considered to contribute to the drainage problems. As with the potholes, more money needs to be spent on cleaning gullies and maintaining a decent level of clear drainage.

● **Verge cutting:** several people mentioned that they considered the verges were cut too early (at the end of February this year in some parts) which was detrimental to both birdlife and to wild flowers. There were also some complaints that when work on verges, and particularly hedge cutting, were undertaken the resulting debris was not then properly cleared away, compounding the problems of drainage discussed above.



*A love hate relationship with our tractors*

● **Agricultural and other large vehicles:** were considered to be responsible for breaking the verges and kerbs. There were also several calls for farmers to clear mud off the road. Agricultural traffic was considered sometimes to drive too fast through the villages and there was some suggestion that modern tractors and similar vehicles were too large to cope with village roads.

However, remarks from the farming community emphasise that most farmers know they are required to clean roads behind them and, indeed, do so, sometimes then “receiving abuse for holding up the traffic”.

Farmers also point out that the large modern combines etc mean that the work gets done faster and therefore there is an argument that they are less obstructive than the older, smaller vehicles which took longer to complete the tasks with consequent comings and goings along lanes.

● **Footpaths:** are mentioned several times. They are described as overgrown or otherwise impassable. One person wrote “footpaths – more necessary than previously due to increase in traffic”. The footpath at the back of Broadwindsor church is described as “overgrown and unusable”.

We can see from the above that residents recognise that this is an agricultural area and that no-one lives in West Dorset because of its dry climate and clean streets! But residents do, absolutely, expect the authorities, landowners and agricultural users to improve the standards considered acceptable to keep the roadways and byways in an appropriate state for others.

● **Street Lighting:** is an issue mainly for Broadwindsor residents. Many consider there is too much street lighting in the village. The lighting is thought too bright, obtrusive and out of character for a village. (There are a number of people who mention light pollution in Broadwindsor and in Mosterton.) Conversely one resident (admittedly from Drimpton rather than Broadwindsor) writes “there is a lack of street lighting on Bridport Road - and after all we still have to pay full Council Tax!” And a resident of Hursey pointed out that Hursey Lane is a very dark road without any light.



*Plastic bottle recycling is in demand*

● **Recycling facilities within the Parish:** are repeatedly called for, with the problem of plastic bottles being mentioned several times. One respondent noted that the position will be made more difficult if the recycling facility at Crewkerne is open for shorter periods than currently, or closed altogether.

● **Dog fouling:** is clearly a very live issue and there are many calls for dog waste bins to be provided or retained.

● **Flora and Fauna:** concerns make some residents call for better consideration of the needs of wildlife in the planning of verge and hedge cutting and there is mention of the spread of exotic weeds such as Himalayan Balsam. One respondent asked for a wildlife corridor to be established down from Lewesdon Hill.

● **Crime (or the fear of crime):** is of greater concern outside the village of Broadwindsor. This may have something to do with the fact that a police officer often attends the Post Office mornings in Broadwindsor's Comrades Hall. In outlying villages, a police presence is found lacking. One resident of Seaborough wrote: “The police sometimes drive through, but they don't stop, or knock on doors, or try to get to know people”. Thefts from farm buildings in rural areas also contribute to a sense of insecurity.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Just over 80% of the residents who answered the questionnaire have the internet at home. They are fairly evenly divided as to satisfaction with their current broadband speed, with 157 satisfied as against 170 who are not. Comparatively more dissatisfied people live outside Broadwindsor. However, 234 people want to see their speed improved! Well over half have a wireless connection whilst 6% still rely on dial-up. BT is easily the most common provider followed by TalkTalk. Interestingly, as the next paragraph will reveal, there is almost no correlation between internet providers and mobile phone providers.

758 people in responding households have a mobile phone. Although there is a whole raft of providers Orange is by far the most popular. Roughly half of mobile phone users use Orange with the remainder divided between every mobile phone company you have ever

heard of, although O2 and Vodafone are the next most popular. BT is very rarely cited as a mobile phone provider.

68% of respondents are not satisfied with the mobile reception they get at home and 51% state they would be prepared to have a mast located in their vicinity to improve it. There were a number of suggestions as to where these masts might be located, including Hursey Common, the north side of Pilsdon Pen, Paynes Hill, Lewesdon Hill, Blackdown Hill and “the (presumably Broadwindsor) Church Tower”. Indeed there were several people who offered use of their land e.g.: “Happy to have one on our land if helpful to others and depending what it looks like.” “My field!” There were very few adverse comments. This positive attitude seems to tie in with the similar feeling about development in most of the parish.

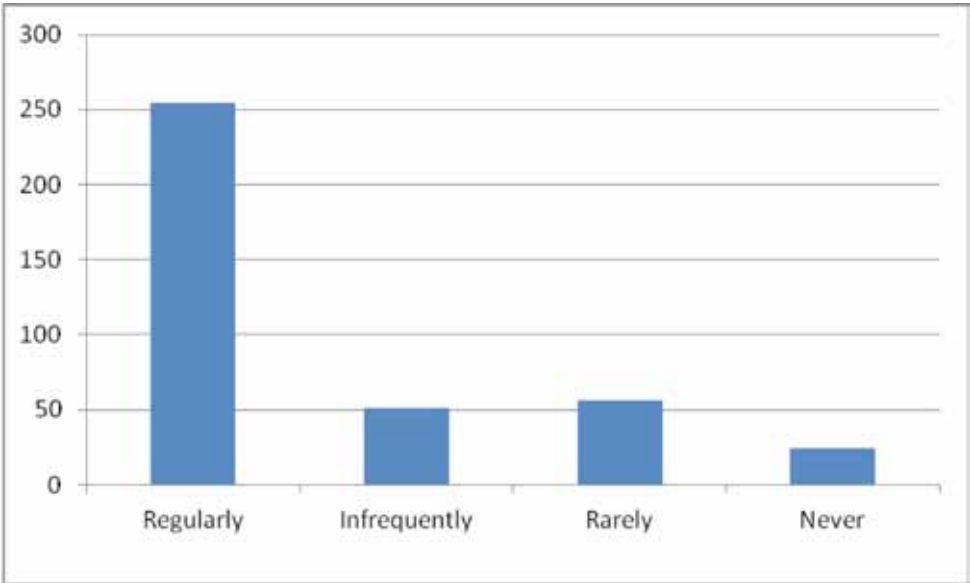


*Blackdown Hill - one of several sites suggested for a mobile phone mast*

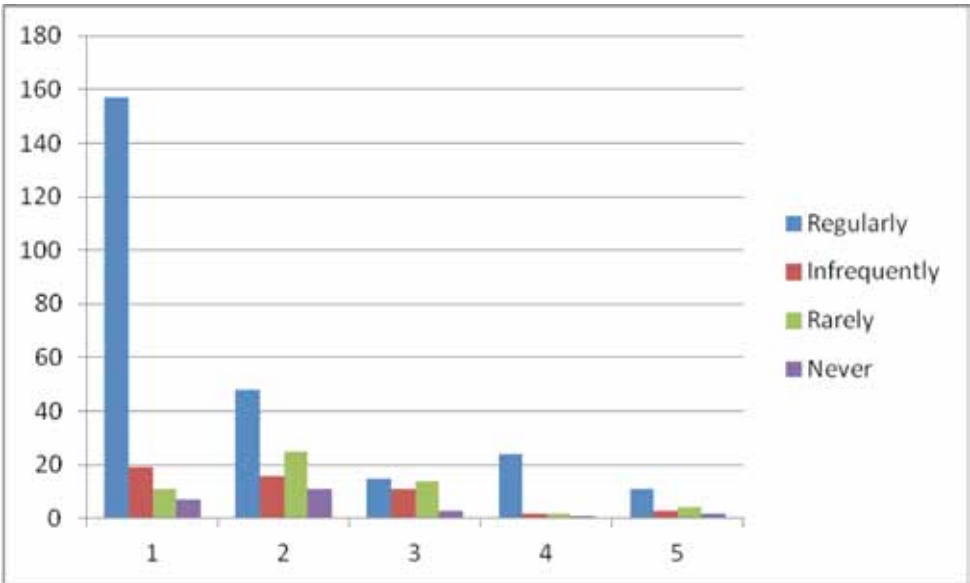
# PUBLIC AMENITIES AND THEIR USE

**The Shop:** Before its closure Broadwindsor village shop was the most regularly used of all the facilities with the exception of the post box – and even then it exactly ties with the shop - 255 people claim to be regular users of both these facilities.

***Before its closure how often did you use Broadwindsor shop?***



***Usage of the Broadwindsor shop before closure across the whole parish***



1 = Broadwindsor 2 = Drimpton 3 = Childhay etc. 4 = Burstock 5 = Seaborough





*The Royal Oak hosts a popular Skittle Alley*

Interestingly enough, although usage is highest amongst those who live in Broadwindsor itself, there are (or were) regular users of the shop from all parts of the parish. At least 30% of respondents in any given part of the parish claimed to be regular users of the shop in fact.

**The Pubs:** the White Lion in Broadwindsor had more regular users (60) than the Royal Oak in Drimpton (35), according to this survey, and also had more infrequent users (66 as against 41). Of course this may well be because the Royal Oak at Drimpton has regulars from outside the parish boundary, or the fact the White Lion is in a more populous area anyway. More people used the White Lion, when it was open, for having a meal than the Royal Oak. One or two people consider the Squirrel Inn which is outside the parish (near Winsham) to be their local. Some residents use the pub to “meet with villagers and to socialise after other village activities.” There is a popular Skittles alley at the Royal Oak in Drimpton.

**The Post Office:** an outreach service sited at Comrades Hall, it has 90 regular users (and 155 overall), which considering it is only open 2 mornings a week seems a very creditable number. Part of this popularity can also be ascribed to the fact it has become a popular social scene for coffee and a chat.

**The Village Halls:** there are three village halls in the Parish – Blackdown, Drimpton and Comrades Hall in Broadwindsor. They are charitable trusts, which try to pay for themselves through hiring out, with occasional recourse to relevant charities, including the local FMR Trust. The village halls are well used for a wide range of activities. Broadwindsor has the greatest use for almost all the activities listed and Blackdown the least, not surprising given the respective sizes of the villages. However, more people attend village shows such as pantomimes in Drimpton than in Broadwindsor (73 as against 55) and the same is true of line dancing and short mat bowls. The very high numbers who claim to use Broadwindsor for public meetings (126) may reflect the fact that a packed public meeting on the subject of the closure of the village shop was called immediately prior to the distribution of these surveys. Comrades Hall is also evidently very popular for bingo and for live music.

Residents also use the village halls for quizzes, children's parties and other private functions such as wedding receptions. Comrades Hall is regularly used for films (Moviola) and musical/theatrical performances (Artsreach).



Respondents were then asked what other activities they would like to see in their village halls and also what additional sporting activities they would like to see provided and where. A number of suggestions were made although few of them were mentioned more than once or twice. They included:

- Pilates, zumba<sup>10</sup>, snooker, and bingo
- More activities for under 5s, a youth club and computer/IT/photocopying facilities in Comrades Hall
- There are a number of people in some of the villages beyond Broadwindsor who would like to see more films put on and mention is made several times of the need for more from Artsreach. Parents would like to see Moviola, and other providers of films, to think in terms of children and young people as well as the older residents

Comrades Hall is used by the largest number of people and has the most activities, which is hardly surprising given the size of the surrounding community. However, 114 people say they never used it whilst 145 never use Drimpton and 248 never use Blackdown. On the other hand 54 people are regular users of Comrades Hall, nearly all from Broadwindsor or Burstock, and 35 are regular users of Drimpton Village Hall, almost all from Drimpton. Only 5 people are regular users of Blackdown (which

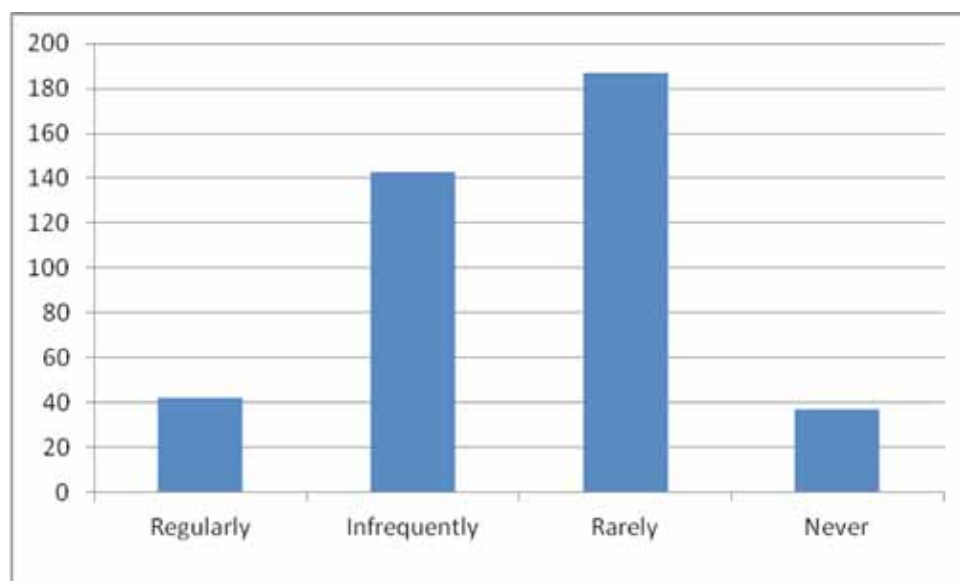
of course serves a very small population). It should be noted, though, that while some of these halls may serve only small numbers very regularly, like the churches, they play a vital role in the sense of community.

**Children's playground at Broadwindsor:** responses to the questionnaire suggested that it is little used, with only 15 regular users listed. However this figure should be treated with caution since we know very few families with children completed the questionnaire. Visual evidence strongly suggests that it is used regularly and by many more children than the response outlined above suggests. One mother said it is "lovely for pre-school children". The playground is also frequently used by children holidaying in the village.

**The Mobile Library:** there are 27 regular users of the mobile library in this survey, 16 of them living in Broadwindsor itself and 10 in Drimpton. Villagers from outlying places note that it does not visit them, and one mother from an outlying area requests that it should come to Broadwindsor at end of school time.

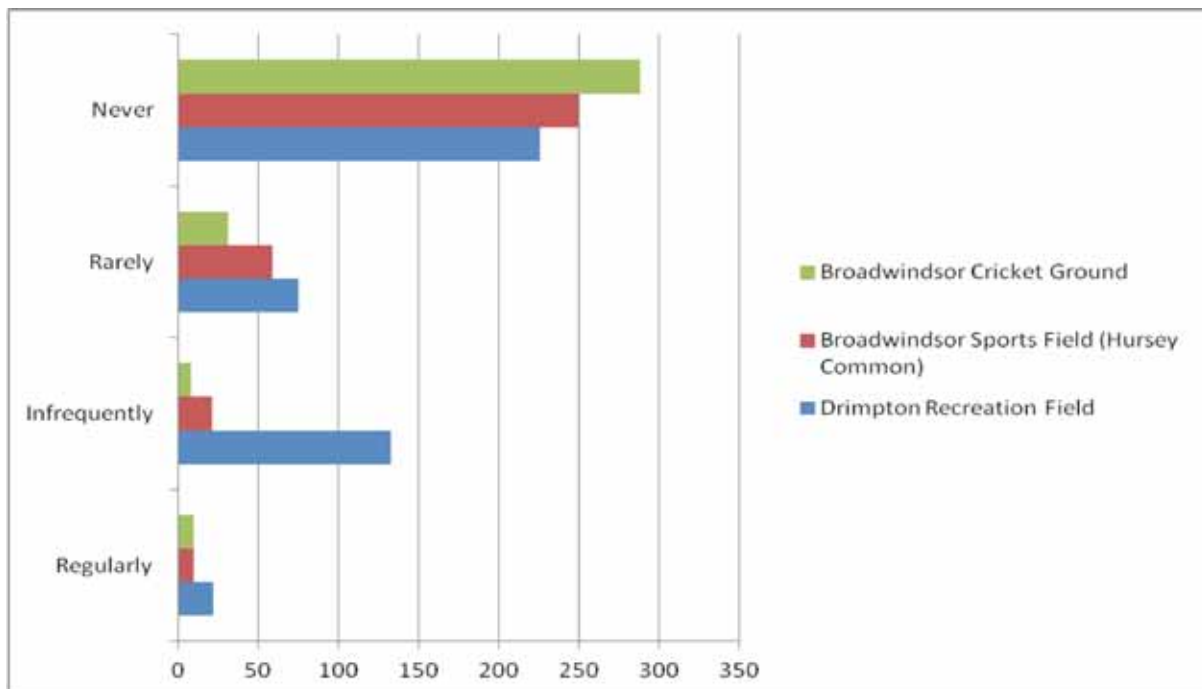
**Broadwindsor Craft Centre:** is clearly a popular destination: only 37 people claim never to use it and it has 42 regular users. A further question later in the survey reveals that the predominant reason for visiting the craft

### ***Do you and your family use/visit Broadwindsor Craft Centre?***



<sup>10</sup>Zumba is now at Broadwindsor

## Use of sporting amenities



centre is to shop, although over 200 people go there for tea or coffee, and 163 for something to eat.

**Recreational and Sports Facilities:** a comparison between the responses about the three recreational / sports facilities in the parish show that none of them appear to be particularly well used. Drimpton Recreation Field is the best used. Again these figures may be in part a reflection of the age profile of the respondents and, as with the Children's Playground, visual evidence and the testimony of the Focus Group contradict the questionnaire response.

As a result of getting the new cricket pavilion, there is now a commitment by the cricket club to provide coaching for young cricketers, as well as the undertaking to encourage the use of the club's facilities more broadly by local people. Some have suggested that the cricket field could also be used for other activities.

The Survey results show that parents from outlying villages feel a need for recreational areas for their children. On the question of sporting activities, the most common suggestion is for tennis and badminton. Tennis courts at the primary school or on Hursey Common are mentioned several times. It is less clear where people expect badminton

to be provided. Parents would be very keen to examine the possibility of using multi-use games facilities at the School. (See next page for more on under-18s)

**Churches:** there are five churches in the Parish, and a Methodist chapel at Netherhay. 50 people claim to be regular churchgoers and 45 infrequent users of the churches. 148 go rarely and 112 never go. This means just fewer than 14% claim to be regular churchgoers. It is difficult to say exactly which churches are visited by these respondents as when asked to specify which church they attended many replied with the name of the place rather than the name of the church. It is clear people attending church mainly go to their local one but a handful venture further afield to Beaminster, Bridport or Crewkerne.



*Burstock Church*

## INTERESTS OF THE UNDER 18s

The households replying to the survey have among them 24 children attending Broadwindsor Primary with none at Salway Ash. 35 go to secondary school in Beaminster, and 8 to Colfox in Bridport. In the “other” column comes a bewildering array of other places of learning including Yeovil College, the Woodroffe School<sup>11</sup> (footnote re: catchment) at Lyme Regis, Colyton Grammar and Parrett and Axe primary at Mosterton.

The NHS Patient Survey 2010 reveals that there are in fact about 95 children living in the villages (spread through all the settlements except Netherhay and Kittwhistle, which are resolutely grown-up places!) and the Broadwindsor School Roll is 85<sup>12</sup> this year.

Respondents were asked what activities their children attended out of school hours and what activities they thought would be of value to their children if the community could provide them. The children appear to be involved in a wide range of out of school activities ranging from rugby, cricket, football, sailing, swimming and horse riding to brownies, cadets, Duke of Edinburgh schemes and on the less outdoors side drumming, art classes, musical activities.

There are requests for a skate park and an adventure playground and a handful of

suggestions for cookery classes, or drama and dance. There is a particular need for activities in holiday times. Some suggestions – over and above those mentioned already in the section on Public Amenities above - included ‘Action Van’, ‘Team Themes’ football courses, and a mobile Climbing Wall.

There was, among the Focus Group parents, a feeling that the villages promoted the interests of the older rather than the younger members of the community. Many children felt they were unwelcome if they played outside, either in the countryside or on the estates. An example was where to ride their bikes, as one mother explained: “My son is not into football, but loves his bike. There is nowhere that he and his friends can go. Lewesdon, although ideal, is National Trust”.

### **Pre-School Provision**

There is a severe shortage of pre-school provision in the parish. In fact it would appear that at the moment there is none. Various playgroups and nursery age providers have either recently disappeared (e.g. Drimpton) or are about to (e.g. Watercleaves). In some parts parents have to resort to using facilities in Thorncombe or Winsham.

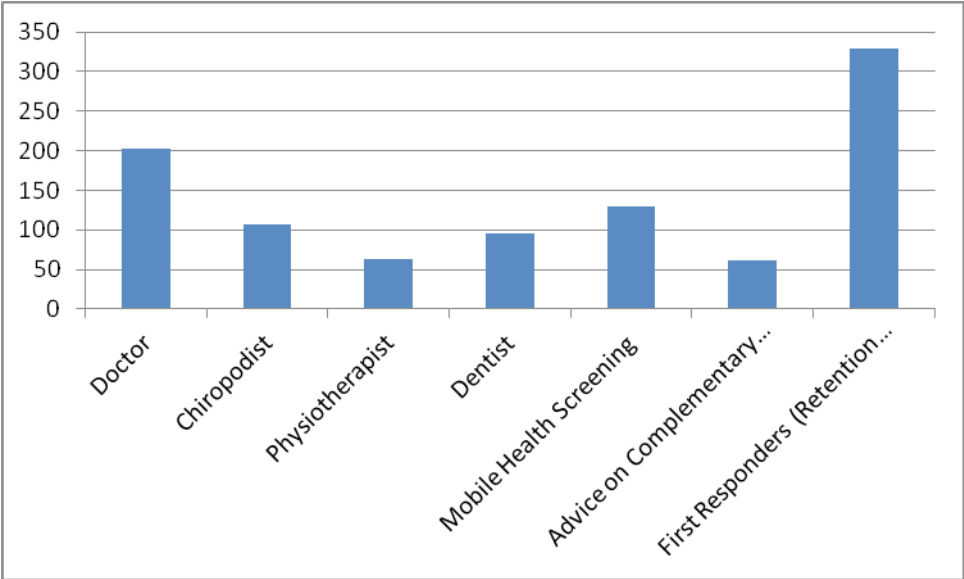
<sup>11</sup>*Blackdown residents are in the catchment area for Woodroffe and Marshwood Primary.*

<sup>12</sup>*In 2011 there were 86, in 2009 there were 90 and in 2008 there were 93.*

# FACILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Respondents were asked what medical facilities they would like to see retained within the parish. As can be seen from the chart reproduced below easily the most important facility is the retention of the First Responders. Next – but a long way behind – is the doctor<sup>13</sup>, followed by mobile health screening.

**The demand for medical facilities**



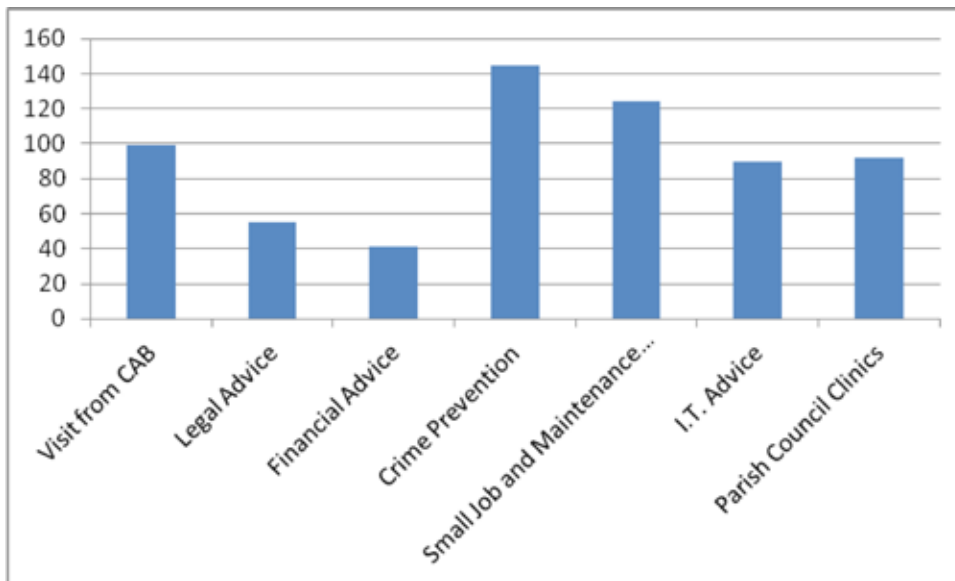
In terms of other advice residents would like to have provided, crime prevention occurs most often, closely followed by small jobs and maintenance help. Legal and financial advice is the least requested service. However the numbers here are considerably lower than for the medical facilities as the comparison between the two charts shows.



*A valued service but not enough volunteers*

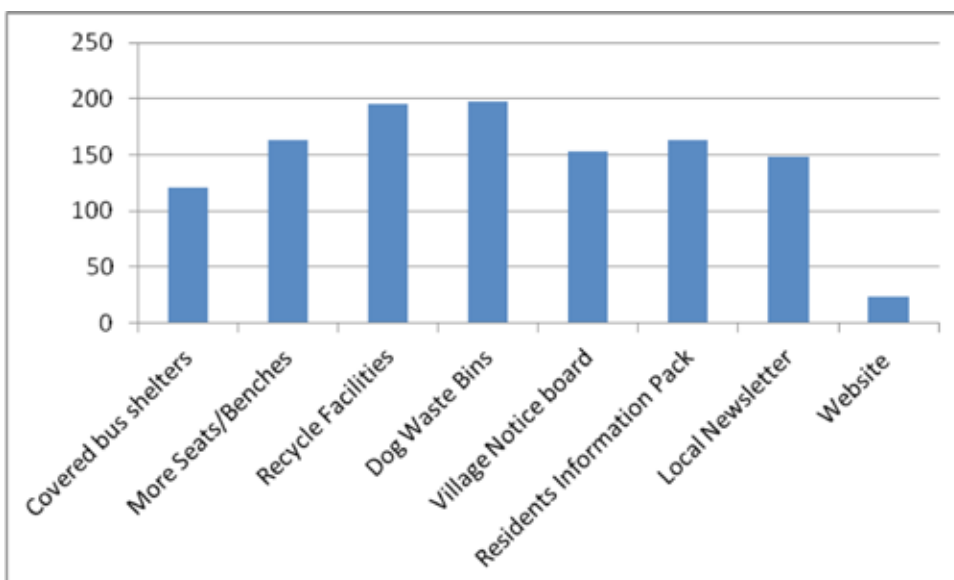
<sup>13</sup>There is no doctors' practice in the parish.

### ***The demand for other ‘professional’ services***



Respondents were then asked about a range of other miscellaneous facilities they thought beneficial. As the chart below highlights most interest was in the provision of dog waste bins very closely followed by recycling facilities. The least amount of interest was for a village website.

### ***Other wanted community facilities***





## PARTICULAR LOCAL ISSUES

In Seaborough there is a particular issue around horses where several respondents said there are too many of them on the road, causing, as one person put it “mess... and damage”. There were one or two suggestions as to what to do about the horses, including restricting the number of stables in the area, and having tracks for them in the fields rather than on the roads. Again, in Seaborough there is a particular plea for the village to be recognised as a village, not least by a village sign, and for a sense of community to be cultivated there.

Many respondents mention speeding traffic, but residents of Blackdown and Kittwhistle, Netherhay, Greenham and Drimpton are

particularly worried about it and about the narrow sections of road and blind corners in their areas.

In Broadwindsor, the issue of street lighting is of great concern to many residents. It is noticeable that the number of respondents who would welcome new housing and business development is lower in Broadwindsor than elsewhere.

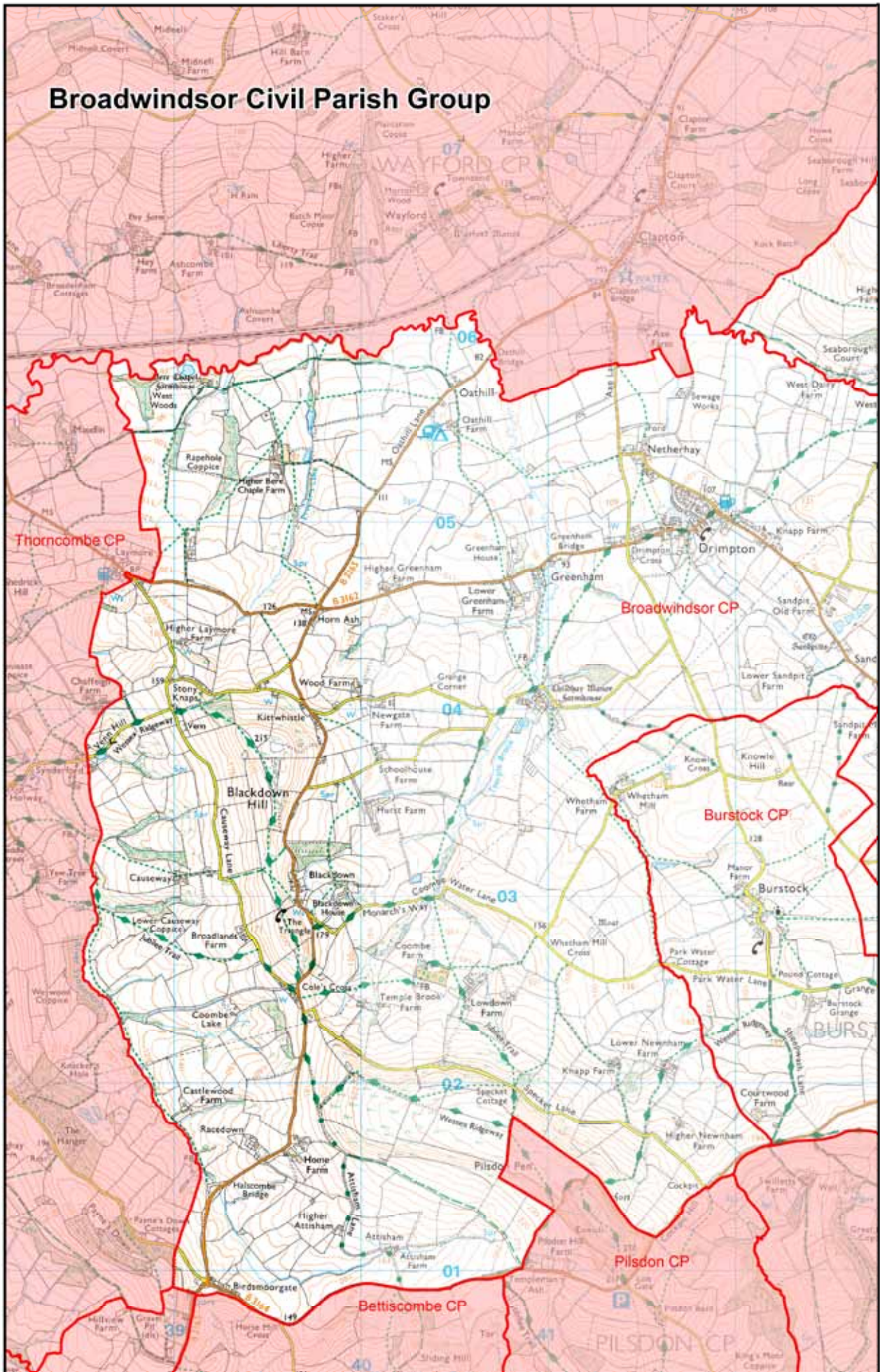
Fly-tipping seems to be a localised problem in Blackdown, Seaborough and Greenham but where it occurs it is clearly considered a major nuisance.



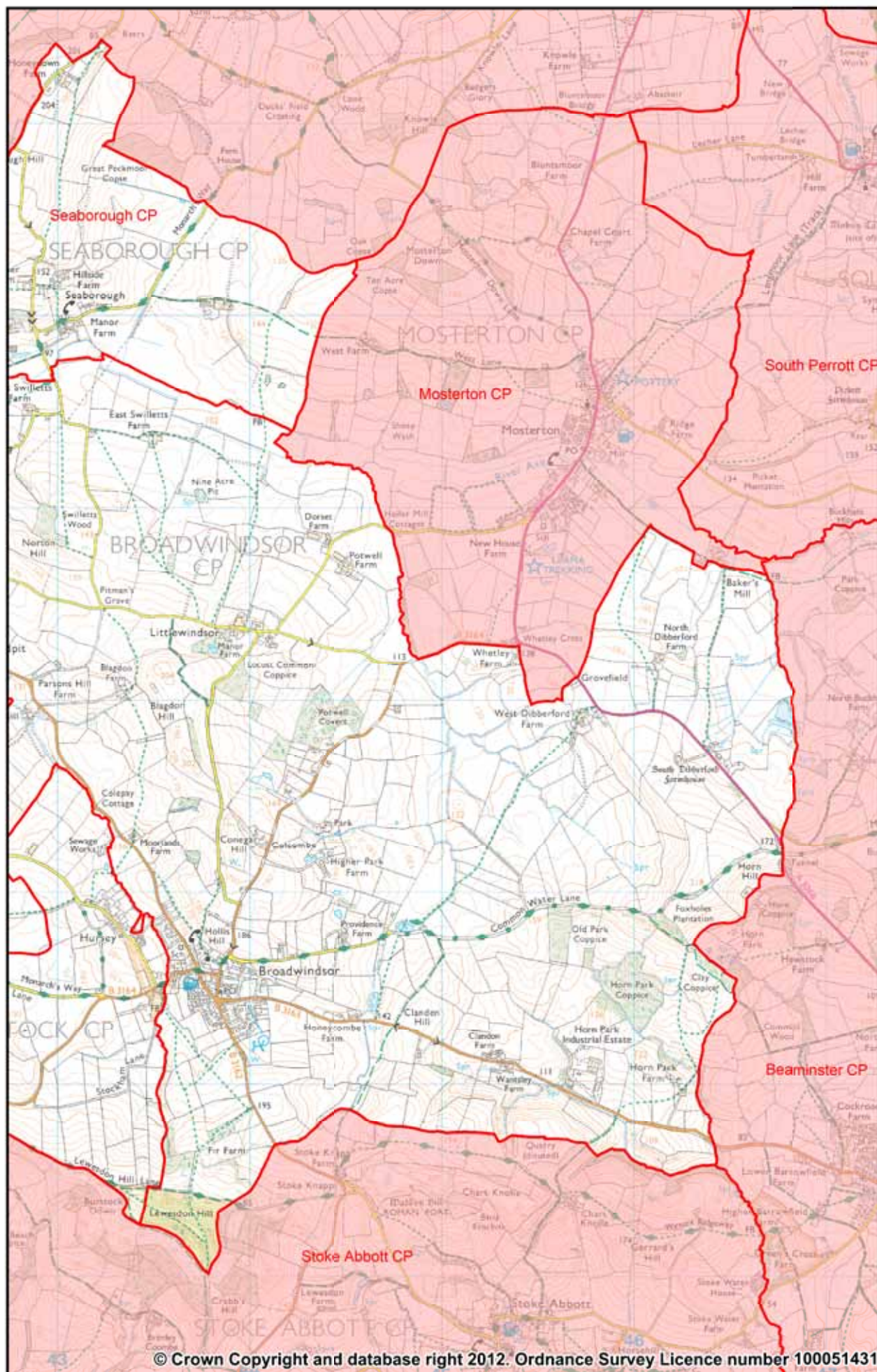
*Fly tipping is a growing concern in Seaborough and elsewhere*



## Broadwindsor Civil Parish Group







# Conclusions

Respondents were asked what they liked most about living in the parish, what they disliked most, and what changes they would like to see. In the final section of the questionnaire respondents were invited to add any other comments they chose. Most respondents took this as an opportunity to repeat their particular concerns. Overall the points made serve once again to point up the main positives and negatives expressed throughout.

What people like most about living here centred almost exclusively around three things – the tranquillity of the area, the beauty of the surrounding countryside, and the friendliness of the inhabitants. These were of course expressed in many different ways with people using words and phrases such as quiet, peaceful, nice views, community spirit “nice neighbours” etc. but these three aspects make up the main plus points of living here.

People’s dislikes are more varied but include,

- Lack of public transport: in particular, there is a sense that the bus service is not a service at all – as quotations in this report taken from respondents show very clearly.
- The closure of the pub (now open of course) and the shop in Broadwindsor.
- The dirty and unsafe state of the roads.
- Speeding traffic and dangerous blind spots (and an apparent lack of will to do anything about these hazards) are frequently cited.

Respondents want mirrors on dangerous bends, traffic calming measures in villages, speed limits started further from villages and the provision of grit bins in frost and ice pockets. None of these things are expensive or difficult to achieve.

● Poor broadband and mobile reception in the smaller, more rural settlements is a common complaint .

● A shortage of social and affordable housing. There were a significant number of pleas to recognise the need for more affordable housing, not only to help local families stay, but also to keep local businesses such as the pubs and the shop viable, and to provide employees for local businesses.

● Lack of priority given to younger residents in terms of amenities.

● Altogether, working out priorities for the families and younger people is seen as a serious challenge for the future health of our community.

However, for some people, the main drawback to living here was something the Parish Council will find hard to correct – Broadwindsor weather! The snow, rain and “Broadwindsor mist” all got mentioned as to what they disliked most about living here!

Indeed, many respondents found little to dislike. One resident of Burstock was particular ecstatic, answering the question ‘What do you dislike?’ by “Nothing! Nothing! Nothing”!



*A welcome grit bin in Hursey Lane*



# Action Plan

## ACTION

### Traffic & Transport Problems

Maintain pressure on Highways Department to deal with flooding and pothole issues

Provide residents with hotline (01305 221020) and dorsetforyou.com website to Highways to report road and byway problems (inc. large vehicles, fly tipping etc.)

Set up Pressure Group to lobby for speed restrictions and other safety measures including pavements, pinch points etc as detailed in 'Traffic Problems'

Create Farmers Liaison Group to tackle road issues on mud, hedge cutting, bank damage etc.

Address Common Water Lane destruction by creating deterrents for the off-landers

Arrange for review of road signs inc. de-cluttering, village signboards

Review and Consult on bus routes to address current users' concerns

Formally request improvements to bus/train links with carriers

Write a formal request to reconsider school bus routes to overcome School Bus anomalies

RESPONSIBILITY	TIMINGS	PAGE REF.
Parish Council/County Council Highway Section	On going	18, 19
Parish Council	Short Term	19, 29
Local Residents/County Council Highways Section/Parish Council/West Dorset Partnership	Short Term	14, 15
Farmers/Parish Council/NFU/Residents	Short Term	19
County Council Rights of Way/West Dorset District Council/Parish Council/Residents	Short Term	15
County Council Highways Section/Parish Council/Residents/Dorset AONB	Mid Term	15
County Council/Residents/WATAG/Bus Operators	Short Term	13, 14
County Council Passenger Transport/West Dorset District Council/WATAG	Mid Term	13, 14
County Council School Transport Parents/School/Colleges	Short Term	12, 13



# Action Plan cont.

## ACTION

### Housing, Planning & Development

Set up Working Group to explore residential and commercial development opportunities in the parish by creating a Neighbourhood Plan or by other means

Encourage small businesses to set up in the Parish

### Communications

Set up Working Group to lobby Mobile Phone Companies to install masts at sites to benefit community; work with Dorset C.C. to provide improved Broadband speed

### Environmental Issues

Draw up an Environmental Code for the Parish and set up Environmental Group

Provide plastic recycling in the villages

Provide dog waste bins

Improve signage and condition of footpaths

Set up Working Group to explore fuel bulk buying, renewable energy opportunities, and mains gas

### Public Amenities & Their Use

Re-launch First Responders

RESPONSIBILITY	TIMINGS	PAGE REF.
District & Parish Councils/Residents	Mid Term	10, 16
Parish Council/Residents/BAVLAP/ Chamber of Commerce	Mid Term	10, 17
Parish Council/Providers/ Land Owners/Residents/ County Council	Short Term	21
Parish Council/ Land owners/Residents	Mid Term	18-20
District Council	Mid Term	20
District Council	Short Term	20
County Council Rights of Way Team/ Walking Groups	Short Term	20
Residents/Beaminster Transition Group	Mid Term	9
Residents/SWAST	Short Term	27

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMINGS	PAGE REF.
Re-open Village Shop	SOBS Committee/Parish Council/ Plunkett Foundation/DCA/ Salisbury Diocese	Short Term	22
Liaise with Broadwindsor School to explore Community use of school and grounds	School/Parish Council/Residents	Short Term	25
Set up Working Group to investigate increased use of Drimpton Playing Fields, Hursey Common, and Broadwindsor Cricket Field, for adult and youth sports	Parish Council/Sports Clubs/Youth Leaders/ Sport Enthusiasts	Mid Term	25
Recruit Team to update and maintain Parish Website	Parish Council/Residents	Short Term	28
Contact Police with concerns raised by Residents	Parish Council/Residents	Short Term	20
<b>Under 18's</b>			
Set up Working Group to investigate and create facilities for Under 5's	Parish Council/Young Mothers/ Dorset County Council - Early Years	Short Term	26
Set up Working Group to create more activities for Primary and Secondary school aged children	Parish Council/Youth Leaders/ Parents/Schools	Mid Term	26
Investigate possibility of Mobile Library visiting after school hours	County Council Library Service	Mid Term	24

## Overall

Within 3 months set up a Committee to establish Working Groups to implement the Action Plan and compile a List of Volunteers, and their fields of expertise and interests, to staff these Groups.

Timings Key: **Short Term** - Within 1 Year. **Mid Term** - Within 3 years

Abbreviations:

**NFU** – National Farmers Union **AONB** – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty **DCA** – Dorset Community Action

**SOBS** – Save Our Broadwindsor Shop **WATAG** – Western Area Transport Action Group

**BAVLAP** – Beaminster and Villages Local Area Partnership **SWAST** – Southwest Ambulance Service Trust

# Your Parish Council as of May 2012

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\* *Chairman*

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## SEABOROUGH

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## Clerk to the Council

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## District Councillor

Jacqui Sewell	2 The Old Bakery, Broadwindsor DT8 3RU	Email: <a href="mailto:cllrj.sewell@westdorset-dc.gov.uk">cllrj.sewell@westdorset-dc.gov.uk</a>	01308 867145
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## County Councillor

Rebecca Knox	Weavers House, 5 East Street, Beaminster DT8 3DS	Email: <a href="mailto:r.knox@dorsetcc.gov.uk">r.knox@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a>	01308 863365
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## Other Useful Contacts

Dorset County Council	01305 221000	<a href="mailto:dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk">dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a>
West Dorset District Council	01305 251010	<a href="mailto:custservices@westdorset-dc.gov.uk">custservices@westdorset-dc.gov.uk</a>
Dorset County Hospital	01305 251150	<a href="mailto:headquarters@dchft.nhs.uk">headquarters@dchft.nhs.uk</a>
Highways Agency	0300 123 5000	<a href="mailto:ha_info@highways.g.s.i.gov.uk">ha_info@highways.g.s.i.gov.uk</a>
Police (Non Emergency)	101	<a href="mailto:beaminster-snt@dorset.pnn.police.uk">beaminster-snt@dorset.pnn.police.uk</a>
Samaritans (of Dorset)	01305 771777	<a href="http://www.samaritans.org/weymouth">www.samaritans.org/weymouth</a>
Citizens Advice (Bridport)	01308 456594	<a href="mailto:advice@bridport-cab.org.uk">advice@bridport-cab.org.uk</a>