

Symondsburry Parish Plan 2008

The Survey Report

PARISH PLAN INTRODUCTION

Symondsbury had its first parish plan published in 2003. Now, five years later, we have an opportunity to update the views of the parish on various issues, with support from the Regional Development Agency, Dorset Community Action and Bridport Local Area Partnership. This document will not just be a box-ticking exercise, but will form part of the District and County Council's development plans. The Parish Councils are being given more responsibility for local activities, so it is vital for us to know what you feel about local matters. Having your views added to the statistics will give weight to any requests we might like to make.

To remind you of the projects that have been achieved following your input last time:

- A tree planting schemes around one of our coastal caravan sites,
- The establishment with Chideock of a Leisure Centre bus for our youngsters
- An affordable housing committee to identify opportunities and accelerate plans
- Extra litter bins placed around villages
- Kerbside recycling for some.

We have presented the review, not as a straight report on the figures, but by grouping the questions together into relevant sectors, and hope this makes more interesting reading. The Parish Council has already started to act on some of the points raised, which we have put in our report, but it is also important for you to come and tell us what you think of the report, and the issues raised. We are preparing the budget for next year, so this is your chance to let us know if there are particular projects you would like to develop.

PRESENTATION OF PARISH PLAN 2008

SYMONDSBURY SCHOOL
TUESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER
7.30 P.M.

We have tried to involve as many as possible in the compilation of the report, but inevitably it falls to the few who have done the hard graft, and I would like to thank in particular, Chris Reynolds who has done a huge amount to prepare the questionnaire and final report, supported by Cllr Peter Smith. Thanks also to Rob Bailey who prepared the graphics and our Clerk, David Wragg. Bridport Local Area Partnership and Dorset Community Action have also been great supporters.

Amanda Streatfeild
Chairman, Symondsbury Parish Council

DEMOGRAPHY.

Q1.

There were **194** responses from householders who said the Parish was their **main residence**,

and **1** response from a householder who said it was not.

Q3:

Asked how long they had lived in the Parish;

90 or more replied "over 20 years".

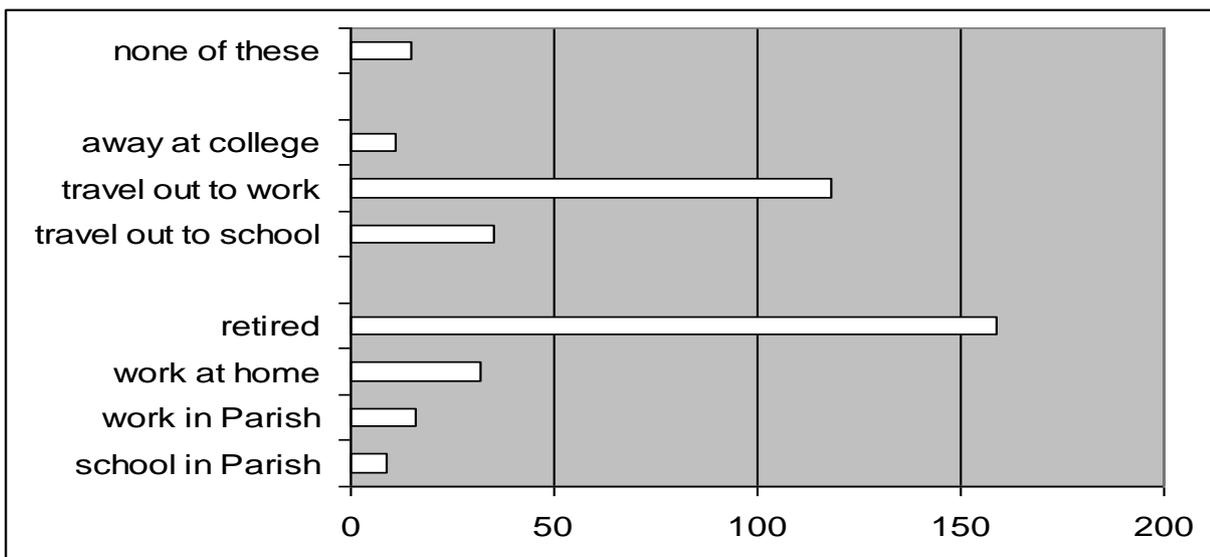
79 replied "between 5 and 20 years".

56 replied "0 to 5 years".

Q2 Asked which was their **nearest community** within the Parish,

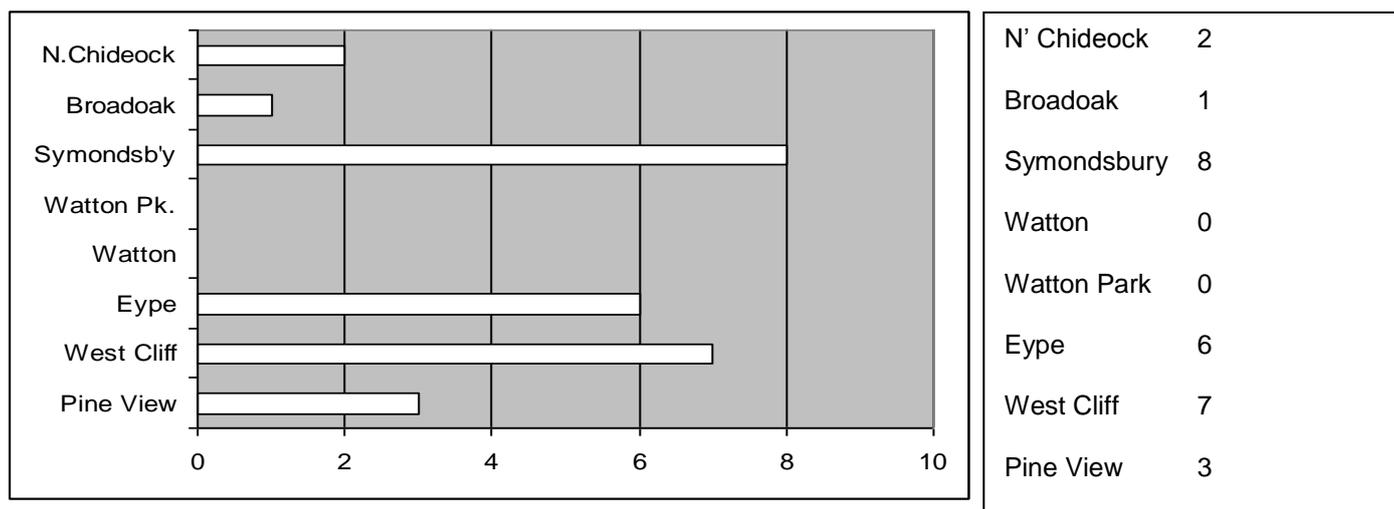


When asked where people in their families worked or went to school, they responded that:



RESPONSES REGARDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

The breakdown of the need for affordable housing in the Parish is as follows:



Q4 16 responses said that members of their households had moved away from the area, as a result of a lack of affordable housing.

Q6

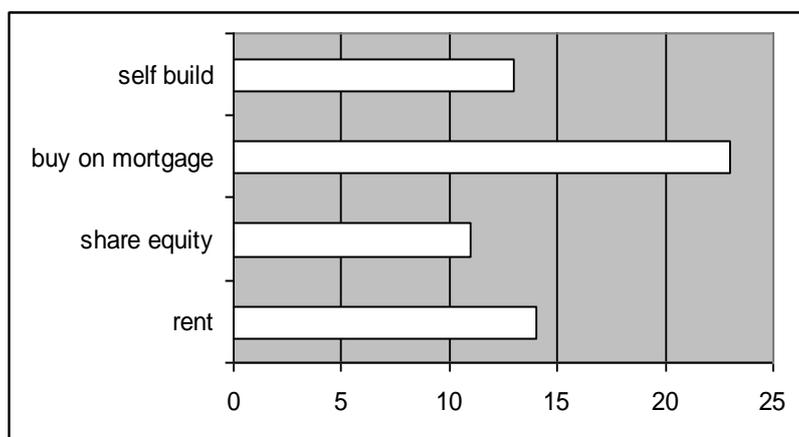
14 of these would move back if affordable housing was made available.

First choice

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Q5 Responses indicate that up to 34 people in the Parish will want affordable housing in the next five years.

cate that:

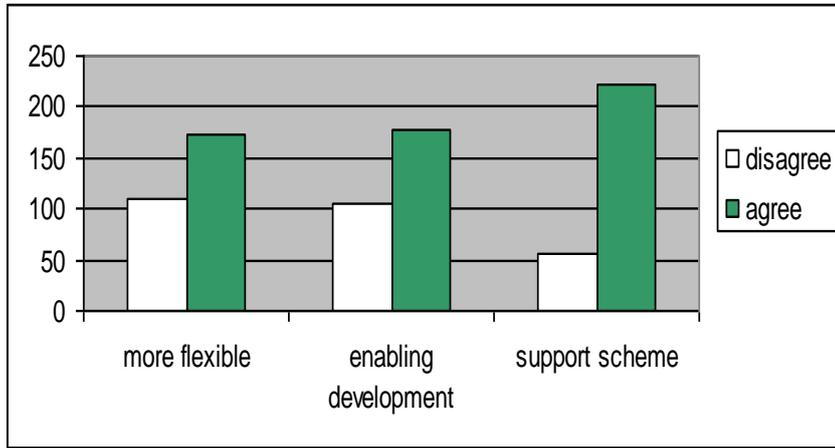


14 would like to rent,
11 would like shared equity (*where they partly buy, and partly rent*)
23 would like to buy full equity on a mortgage, and
13 would be interested in self-building (*some choosing more than one option*)

Actions Taken.

With the help of The Walbridge Trust, and willing volunteers, a Community Land Trust has been established. Negotiations for a first site are already underway and a financial plan is under consideration. Expert help is being provided by Community Finance Solutions, and a group of builders who will work at cost (taking no development profits) have been gathered. Initial consultations with planners have been constructive.

Within the Parish at large:



Q7. **172** thought planning policy should be more flexible about the location of new homes for local people.

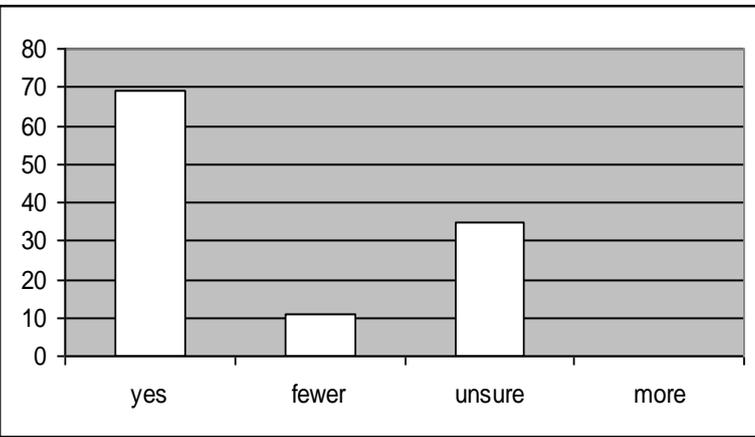
110 felt that planning policy was flexible enough.

Q 8. **177** people thought the limited building of open market housing should be allowed in the Parish, if it specifically helped fund affordable housing for local need.

104 disagreed.

Q9. **221** people said they would support a scheme to provide affordable housing for local people, **57** said they would not.

Q32 Asked if being provided with affordable housing within the parish would result in you making **the same number of car journeys**:



69 said “yes”
11 said “fewer”
35 were unsure,
 but **nobody** said they would make **more** journeys.

Synopsis.

This gives us a snapshot of where we stand. The majority of the respondents (221 for, 57 against) support the development of affordable housing within the Parish.

34 people will need it in the next 5 years (The Dorset Community Action survey conducted alongside our Parish one has indicated that 10 of them need it now). Some 16 people have already left the Parish because of the lack of affordable housing, 14 of whom would like to move back should the opportunity arise. A majority (though not an overwhelming one) feel that planning issues have got in the way of affordable housing development.

Building affordable housing in the Parish will not result in an increased number of car journeys, and might see a small decrease.

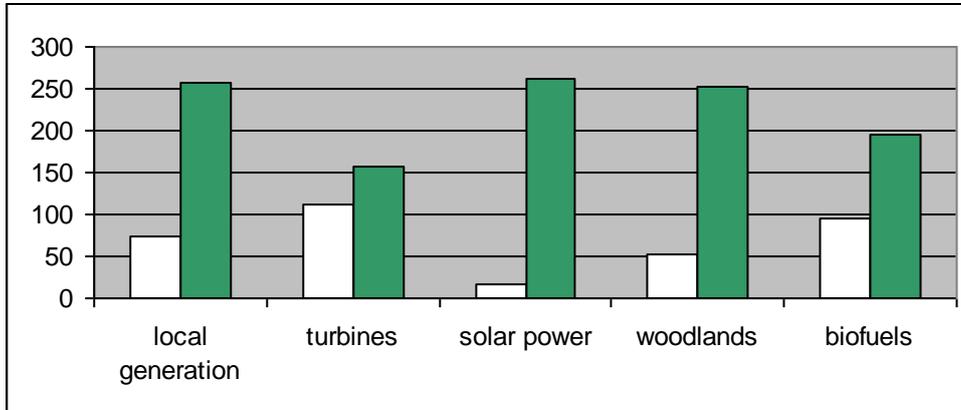
Actions to be taken in the future.

The provision of low cost land is the key to affordable housing, and we will continue to encourage local landowners to be generous.

LOCAL GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY, BIO-FUELS, HEAT SOURCES.

Asked if they would like to see some electricity generated locally,
258 said yes, and **73** said no.

Asked how this might be done;

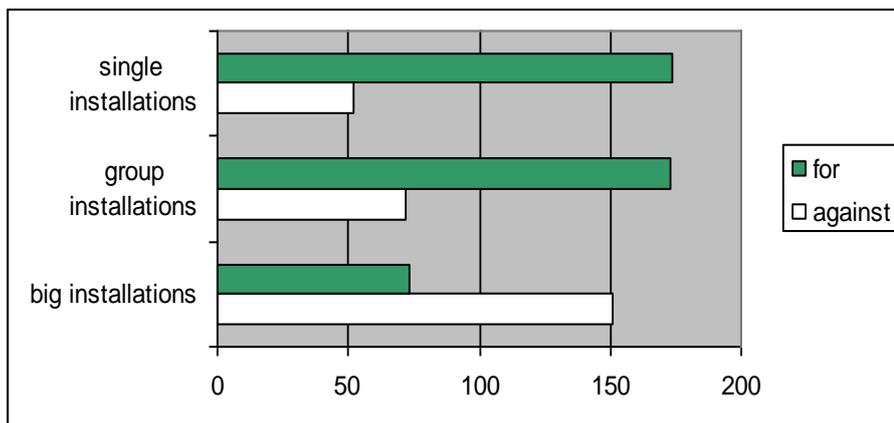


157 were in favour of **wind turbines**,
113 were against

262 were in favour of **solar power**,
17 were against

267 would support a best option study,
29 were against

253 were in favour of managed woodlands and withies to provide fuel
52 were against
195 were in favour of growing crops for bio-fuel
96 were against.



73 were in favour of **big installations** feeding directly into the grid,
151 were against.

173 were in favour of **medium installations** serving groups of buildings,
72 were against.

174 were in favour of **single house installations**
52 against.

Q18 a. Asked about **solar panels** for hot water, **293** were in favour of them, **29** against.
 b. Asked about research on **heat pumps**, **246** would support it, **55** would not

Synopsis

With the exception of large scale installations, there is quite strong support for the introduction of alternative energy supplies, locally generated, particularly solar energy and the growing of wood for fuel. The feeling for wind turbines and growing bio-fuel crops was less strong, but still had the majority view.

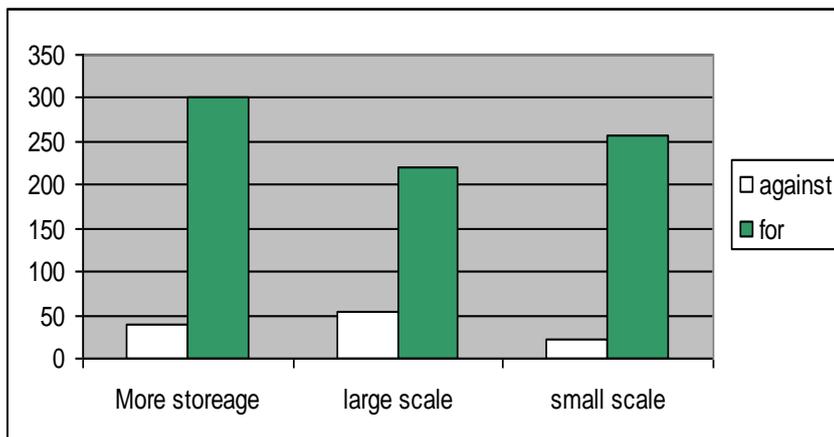
Actions to be taken

Active support by your parish council for any planning applications covered by this mandate.

We will organise events to raise our level of awareness about what we can do locally.

STORAGE AND MANAGEMENT OF WATER.

Q19 Asked if they would like to see more provision for water storage, **302** said yes, **40** said no.



221 would like to see large-scale storage, lakes, village ponds, local reservoirs etc.

55 were against

257 would like to see more small-scale storage, water butts, garden ponds, storage tanks etc.

23 would not

Q20. Asked, "Do you have concerns about flooding in your part of the Parish?"

104 said yes, and **241** said no.

Actions Taken

Local councillors have attended a one-day session looking at flood plain definition and flood prevention measures being studied.

Actions to be taken

Active support by your parish council for any planning applications covered by this mandate.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, MOVEMENT TO AND FROM WORK

Q 12. Employers within the Parish said that: **25** employees live in the Parish and **100** travel into the Parish to work, an additional **32** describe themselves as working from home.

118 say that they travel out of the Parish to work.



Q13 Asking those who live in the Parish if they would like to seek employment within the Parish,

61 said Yes,
168 said No.

Q23. Asked about Signs,
30 of those running businesses said they would benefit from better signage,
15 said their businesses had been adversely affected by not being allowed to put up proper signage.

Synopsis.

This is hard evidence which questions the assumptions made about employment and transport use. There are 61 people who would like to find work within the Parish, and only 25 cited by employers as already doing so. 100 people make the journey into the Parish to work each day.

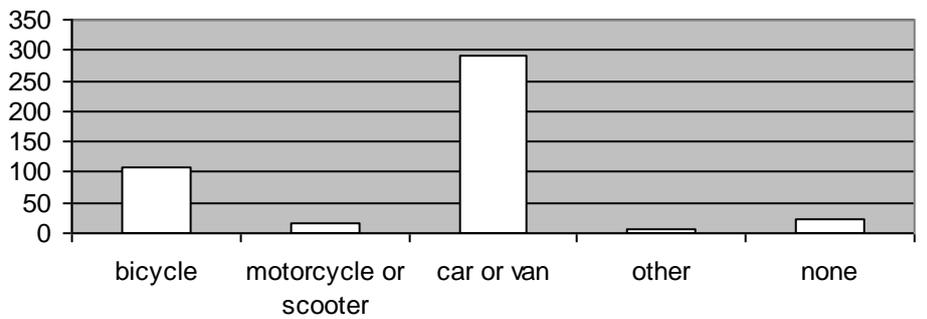
Actions to be taken

Your parish council will consider any suitable businesses wishing to start up in the Parish.

TRANSPORTATION

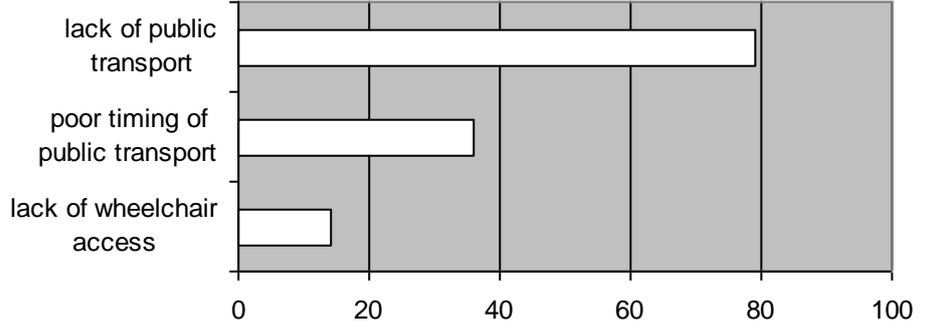
Q28. Asked, "Which members, (if any) of your household would use a **Bus Service**, (similar to that which runs between Bridport & Maiden Newton)." **72** said **yes**

Q29 To, the question, “do you have your own means of transport?” people replied that they owned:



Q30

People Living and / or working in the Parish reported having transport problems such as:



There are
4 users of the ring-and-ride service,
12 who use taxi vouchers,
11 who use the hospital car service.

However when asked if they might use these services in future,

85 said ring-and ride,
107 said the taxi voucher service.
 There was some desire for more information.

Synopsis.

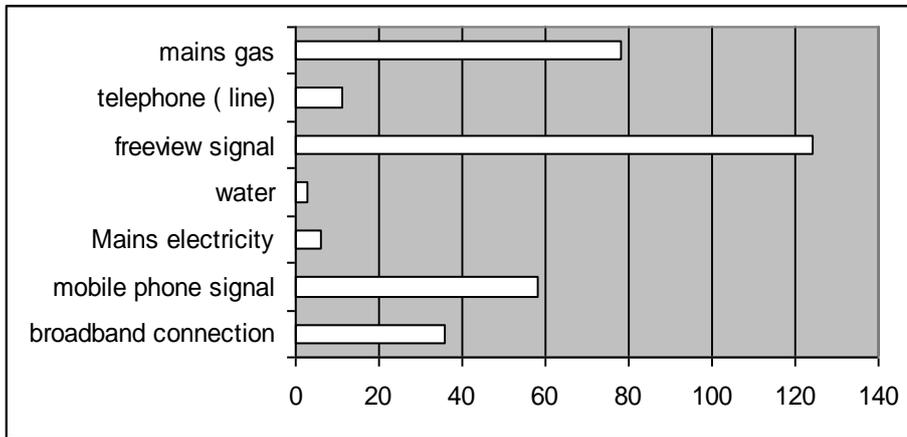
There is a sizeable minority within the Parish who would use public transport if a suitable service existed. Present facilities are somewhat underused, and this may be due to lack of information about them.

Actions to be taken

The Parish Council will publicise, and assist with, any schemes proposed.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Q 24 Asked “Are you having difficulty in accessing any of the following services?”



Mains Gas78
Telephone line11
Freeview digital signal.	.124
Water3
Mains electricity6
Mobile phone signal58
Broadband Connection.....	36

Synopsis

Basic services are mostly good, but digital services leave something to be desired. Bearing in mind that we are being switched to digital next year, pressure needs to be maintained on the relevant authorities.

Action taken

We are looking into the provision of better local broadband provision (line-of sight and satellite)

LO

CAL RESOURCES, TITHE BARN, TOURIST FACILITIES, CAR PARKS

Actions to be taken

We will assist with information on the digital switchover, and press for improvement of the landline provision.

Q14.

Asked, " Would you make use of a local facility, which gave you access to photocopying, scanning, printing and the Internet?

92 people said they would, **168** wouldn't.

Action Taken

Negotiations are well advanced with a consortium led by Dorset Community Action, (in partnership with The Walbridge Trust) to provide hardware which will give public access to photocopying, scanning, printing and the Internet in The Pottery in Symondsburry and The Village Hall in Broadoak. Connections might be available to other Parish settlements should they request them before the scheme ends.

Q15

Asked who would like to see the Tithe Barn in Symondsburry developed as a local community resource,

174 people said they would, **48** wouldn't.

Q22,

Asked if they thought that facilities for tourism are adequate,

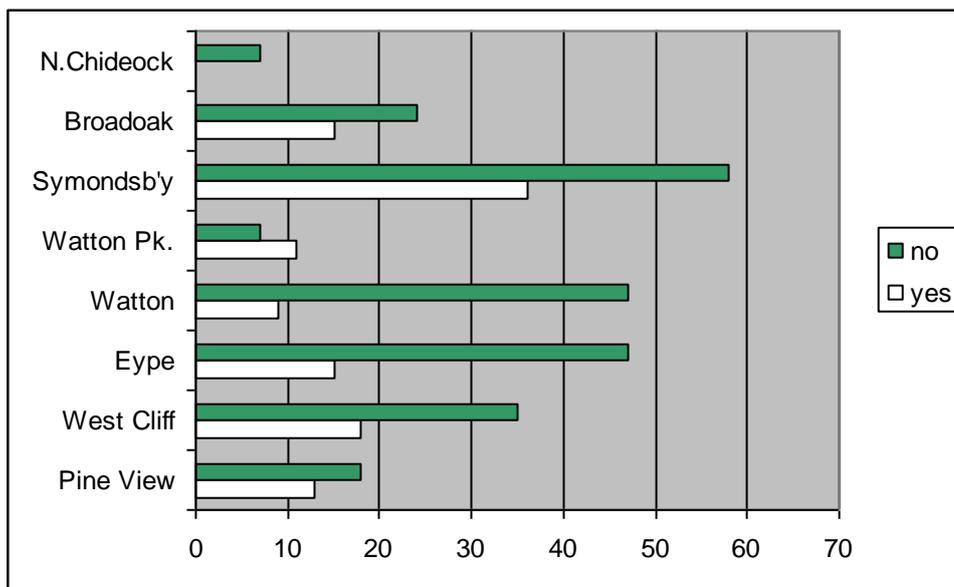
193 said they did, **138** said they didn't.

Q23a,

Asked if they would like to see a managed development of tourist facilities,
154 said yes, **174** said no.

Q 34

Asked if they thought their area needed a car park, residents said;



Synopsis

The balance of feeling was against more car parks from all settlements, (except Watton Park) and against managed tourist facilities.

Stronger feeling supported the redevelopment of the Tithe Barn for community use,

92 people who would like access to computer based amenities.

Actions to be taken

The Parish Council are keen to support any scheme to bring the Tithe Barn and courtyard back into good repair and community use.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Q21

Asked, "Would you like to see a move towards replacing cesspits and septic tanks with closed bio-digester systems?" **253** said yes, **60** said no.

Q25a.

Asked, "Should we encourage the Local Authority to establish an anaerobic digester for all food waste?", **286** said yes, **63** said no.

Q25b. Asked, "Would you be prepared to see one built in our parish, provided it was carefully sited and screened?" **244** said yes, **90** said no.

Q27 Asked, "Would you support fortnightly waste collections?" **98** said yes, **272** said no.

Synopsis

Strong feeling in favour accepting new green technologies, and against fortnightly collections.

Actions to be taken

The Parish Council takes note of these feelings, and will look into providing more information.

PLANNING POLICY.

Q.7 Asked if planning policy should be more flexible about the location of new homes specifically for local people, who wish to remain in the Parish, **172** said Yes, **110** said No.

Q11 Asked if planning policy should be more flexible in allowing the re-development of old buildings in order to provide jobs and housing within the parish, **264** said Yes. **43** said No.

Q18c Asked if planning policy prevents the greater use of alternative energy producing technology locally, **167** said Yes, **68** said No.

Synopsis.

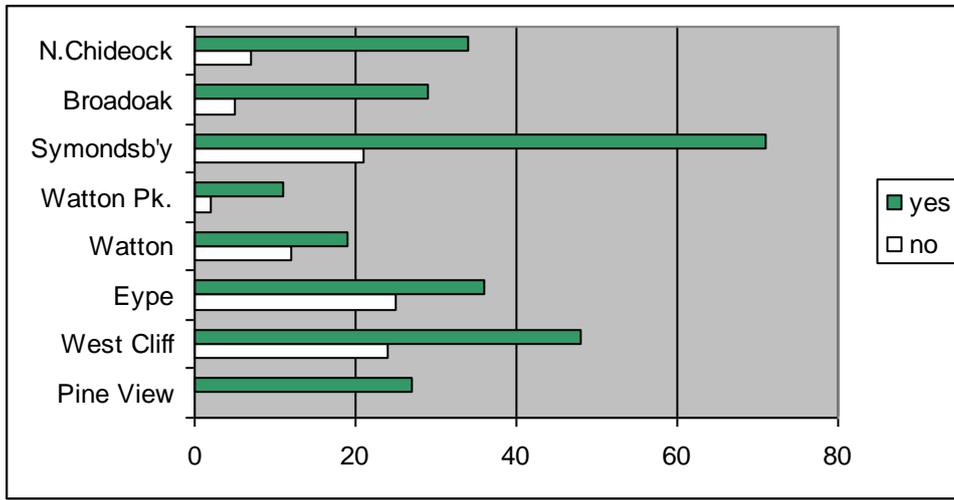
Generally people felt that planning policy was unhelpful in determining local issues, and indeed might be one of the constraints. There was strong feeling in favour of the redevelopment of old buildings and presumably a preference for brownfield rather than greenfield sites.

Action to be taken

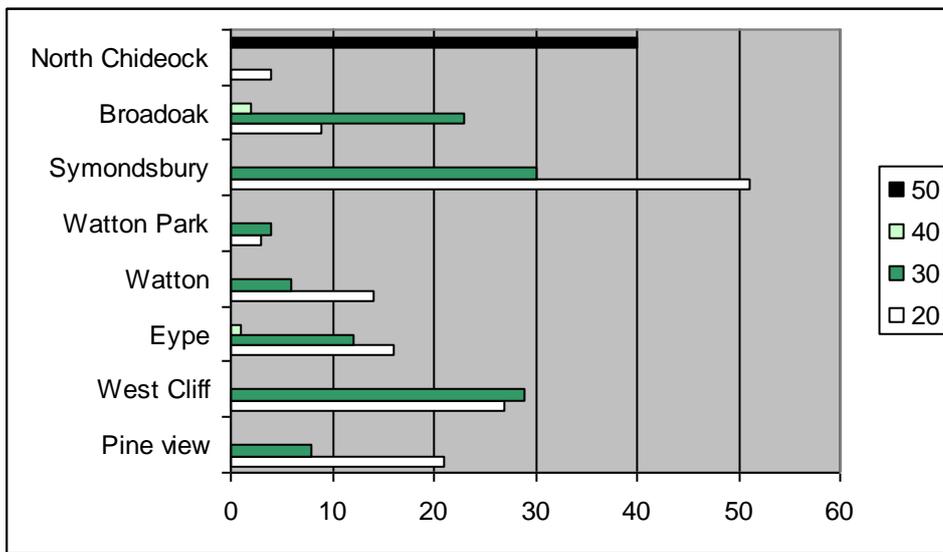
Your Parish Council will actively encourage the implementation, by WDDC and DCC of The Sustainable Communities Act, with respect to planning issues.

SPEED

RESTRICTIONS



Q33a. asked
 "Would you like speed restrictions for your village?"



Q33b. asked
 "What speed limit would you like to see?"

Asked "Would you support a maximum speed limit of 40mph on all lanes in West Dorset?"
250 said yes, **63** said no.

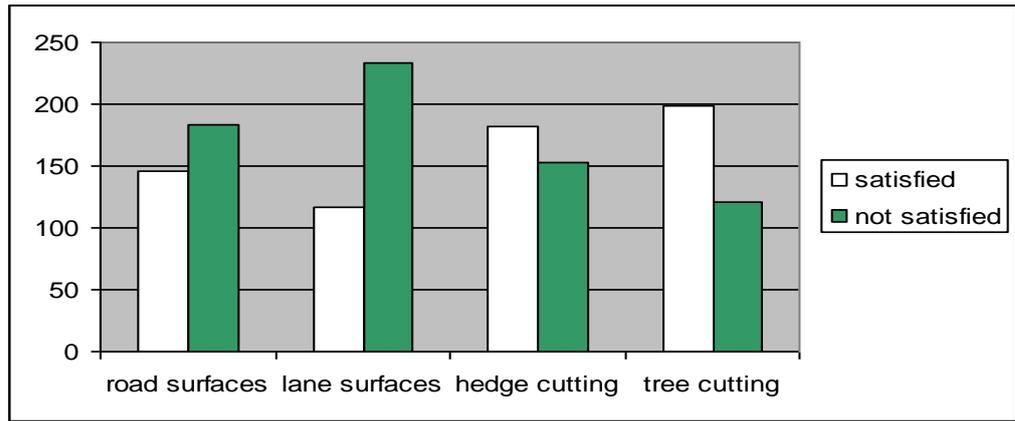
Synopsis.

With the exception of N. Chideock, all settlement would like to see a speed limit introduced, the majority between 20 – 30 mph. There is strong support for a 40mph speed limit throughout the lanes of Dorset.

Actions to be taken
 Any settlement may apply, through their Parish Council, to Dorset County Council for appropriate speed limits.

Q35. Asked

“Are you satisfied with the level of maintenance within the Parish?”



Q36

Asked “Should the council be required at all times to cut the roadside vegetation to a full fifteen foot height in our narrow lanes?”

251 said yes, **87** said no.

Q37

Asked “Should the council make a priority of getting overhead cables put underground?”

205 said yes, **137** said no.

Synopsis

The level of maintenance, particularly of road and lane services, leaves something to be desired. The present hedge cut (of 4ft.) is too low, particularly for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists

Action taken

The Parish Council are involved in negotiations to bury the cables in Eype.

YOUNG PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

We were delighted to have some younger members of the parish take part in our survey, and are grateful to them for taking the time and trouble. Their views are as important as the rest of the parish, and though we can't lay on all the resources they might like, it is good to know what they would like if we could wave a magic wand.

One of the positive responses was that the majority would be happy to get involved in organising activities, so they are not just takers, but givers too. However, the view was that not enough was being done to make life enjoyable in the parish, which is a point we must look at.

There were realistic calls for recreational activities such as table tennis in Eype Schoolroom, and perhaps a youth club, and a youth cricket team of some sort, and the school playground to be available out of school hours. Other things they would like were dirt jumps for bikes and a tennis court, and more clubs for sports.

Again, there were lots of positive views of living in the parish - countryside freedom, friendliness, places to take the dog for a walk and beautiful scenery. On the downside it is too quiet, too far from town, no shop and a lack of young people. This supports the adult responses asking for more affordable housing, to encourage families back into the villages.

Looking to the future, a few would like to stay in the parish, once they've left school, and there were calls for local businesses to be asked to employ local people, and to offer better training and apprenticeships and advice for school leavers.