

The Parish of Stockland

Stockland is a large parish in East Devon of 5849 acres (2367ha) within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is bounded to the east by the River Yarty (once Earta, meaning a wagtail in Old English) and to the west by the Umborne Brook, the source of which lies on the parish boundary at Cooksmoor.

There is evidence of a pre-historic settlement from the many Stone Age tools found near the Yarty River and on Stockland Hill. The eastern slopes of the latter has two Iron Age camps, where several sling stones have been found within the larger one.

In July 1989 “a very significant find” was made by South West Archaeologists at Crandons Cross, Stockland near the River Yarty. More than 12,000 core tools from the Mesolithic Age (c.7000BC) chiefly made from Greensand chert, being a valley gravel deposit area and some made to a lesser extent from flint, were uncovered from two fields. The tools included picks, adzes, axes, microliths, scrapers, etc. The ‘early man factory’ of that period is the first to be discovered in Devon and is one of the areas earliest industrial sites. An earlier Palaeolithic hand axe was also found lying beside a hedge nearby by Nan Pearce, a Society member from Stockland, who was instrumental in the excavations.

The settlement of Stockland is first mentioned in 934AD when the Manor of Stockland was given by the Saxon King Athelstan to the Church at Milton (Middleton) Dorset.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records the village as belonging to the Milton Abbey and known as Ertacomestoche, probably meaning a daughter or farming settlement in the Yarty valley belonging to the Church. The Survey also records the high number of three mills in the parish. One of these was almost certainly at Millhayes as the Domesday Book frequently mentions MELLES, MELLIS etc and contemporary deeds invariably refer to a property as being situated in MELLIS or Millhayes, hereby indicating that the original name of the hamlet was Saxon. Several farmsteads in the parish are still known by their place names of hayes (OE haeg, meaning a fence or enclosed piece of land) and the Seavingtons, near Millhayes, further candidates for this period of time.

The Church of St. Michael and All Angels has evidence of an earlier 12th C building with Norman Romanesque arches surviving on the south wall of the chancel and a 13th C lancet window. The main structure however is 14th C with a 15th C north aisle added. The tower is nearly 100 ft high and its ring of six bells date from 1603.

Stockland remained part of Dorset until 1844, as plaques on the two bridges entering the village confirm.

Stockland has a number of medieval houses, some within the village. The village itself has 67 properties for 135 parishioners, plus their children. Altogether the parish of Stockland has 263 properties with 545 people on the electoral roll to date. The Village, although remaining fairly static with some new homes, retains its Primary School, Post Office, Public House and Village Hall. The community spirit of Stockland is second to none, where parishioners join together to arrange fund



*Old shop
and bakery
c. 1930
(see p.19)*

raising events. The Country Fair, given a charter in 1252, is now held on Bank Holiday Monday and is typical of the sheer hard work involved, where huge profits for local organisations and outside charities are raised.

Although there is no longer a village shop, there is plenty of evidence that Stockland enjoyed an equally busy past with cottage names reflecting this. Names such as The Old Bakery, The Stores, The Old Post Office, Potters Cottage and The Forge. Some of the elderly residents remember a Butchers Shop, a Cycle Repair Shop and a Cobbler, to name just a few. Alas, times change.

Biodiversity Audit for Stockland

The country is a deeply dissected upland plateau with altitudes ranging from about 40m up to 258m above sea level. The predominant geological formation is Upper Greensand, a marine sediment laid down during the Cretaceous period between 70 and 135 million years ago. The greensand, which is capped on the higher ground by a layer of clay-with-flints, is underlain on the lower slopes by exposures of impervious Keuper Marl. An annual rainfall of about 1000mm percolates through the porous greensand to the marl so that a spring-line of poorly drained ground is found on slopes of the valleys. Soils are neutral to strongly acid, and prevailing temperatures are generally below those of the nearby lowlands.

Outside the village of Stockland, the parish comprises various hamlets and farmsteads with a predominantly agricultural background. Grassland predominates and supports small dairy farms, typical of the Blackdown Hills as a whole. In recent decades, pressures on farming have led to intensification: some hedges have been grubbed to enlarge fields; almost all permanent grassland has been ploughed and sown with improved pasture mixtures; and most dry heathland has been converted to grassland. Although Stockland still has 4 dairy farmers, there has been a shift towards the rearing of beef cattle and sheep, from hay-making to silaging, and from grass silage to maize silage. The number of farms has decreased, farm size has increased, and pesticide usage has lessened.

There are some significant areas of broadleaf woodland within the parish; some are ancient, semi-natural woodland and much is secondary woodland, developed from the cessation of managing areas of wet heath at the spring-line. To the Southwest of the parish, there is some mixed woodland with planted conifers. Wood-pasture and parkland are but remnants, as indeed are the few remaining old orchards.

*Death cap
toadstools
occasionally
found under oak
within the parish
Photo: Tom Wallace*



One of the most striking features of the parish is the mosaic of small fields

bounded by a network of hedge banks, some of which are irregular, species rich and clearly ancient. On the high ground on Stockland Hill, hedgerows are straight, regular and much more recent. Like hedgerows which provide important wildlife corridors between areas of woodland, the floodplain of the River Yarty is also a crucial corridor within the Axe catchment. The Corry and Umborne Brooks provide similar river corridors within Stockland parish.

Dry heathland was once widespread within the parish. Now almost all has been converted to grassland. Horner Hill is under heathland regeneration. Areas of wet heath, fen meadow and

spring-line mire are well-represented by the Stockland Turbaries, covering 66.6 ha of parish land; together these are probably the most valuable areas for wildlife in Stockland, reflected in their designation as County Wildlife Sites. There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the parish, but there is one local nature reserve at Ashcombe Copse that is owned by the Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society, and there is a series of designated County Wildlife Sites amounting to about 60 ha, if the Turbaries are excluded. The Corry Brook near Popehayne is also a County Wildlife Site, as is the full length of the Yarty.

Otters are back on the Yarty, and dippers, grey wagtails and sand martins are regular breeders along it. Small teasel, a Devon Rarity, grows on the river bank. Salmon are sometimes seen leaping the salmon Ladder south of Beckford in Autumn, and the Lamprey is seen regularly in the Corry. Wet heathland on Stockland's Turbaries supports a number of Devon Notable plant species including oblong-leaved sundew, bog myrtle, round-leaved crowfoot, early marsh orchid, wood horsetail and royal fern. Raft spider occurs here too. The last record of the nationally rare marsh fritillary was in 1994. Oak woodland has a strong population of dormouse and tawny owl. Pied flycatcher and redstart bred here throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Willow tit occurs occasionally in wet woodland, home to the Devon Notable marsh valerian.

Devon Notable species of Stockland's hedge banks include orpine, surge-laurel and green hellebore. A long-term study of barn owl confirms the species continues to breed within the parish, and there are records going back to 1939 of curlew breeding on one farm which may be one of its few remaining sites in Devon.

A 30 year study of toadstools in the neighbouring parish of Membury has led recently to the identification of 700 species, of which 16 were new to science and seven others were new records for Britain. Stockland's fungal diversity seems likely to be comparably great. Current surveys have identified the presence in Stockland of the Biodiversity Action Plan species the black and white scented spine-fungus (*Phelledon melaleucus*), the pink wax cap (*Hygrocybe calyptriformis*), the nationally scarce poplar bolete (*Leccinum aurantiacum*), and the rare, bizarre devil's fingers (*Clathrus archeri*) among many other species.

The Stockland Views Consultation and Parish Plan

In 2004 the Parish Council, like most parish councils, was becoming increasingly aware of the potential benefits to be gained should the Parish produce a plan for its future; a plan developed from the aspirations and needs of the entire community over the next 5-10 years. The plan should help to influence decisions by other authorities, be a basis for action by the people in the parish, be a route to winning funds for local initiatives and be a boost to the Parish Council's standing.

An independent steering group was formed to look at the practicalities and need for such a plan in Stockland. The evidence was conclusive and it was decided to proceed, conduct the public consultation and produce the plan. Much publicity was done to inform all parishioners of the project and invite their involvement in the management and direction of the process.

In April 2005 a Village Exhibition and Public Consultation event was held at the village hall, where parishioners could write down their views, needs and concerns on any issues relating to the parish. Having identified the issues from this input a more detailed questionnaire was produced, piloted and refined, and in May 2006 distributed to every household. All parishioners 11 years or older had the

opportunity to complete the questionnaire anonymously and 412 people undertook to do so (Approx 66% of the Parish).

The steering group then took the data from the questionnaires, analysed it and looked at the best ways to address the issues raised by parishioners. This Action Plan is the result of their work, a document that describes how to meet the needs and wishes of the people of Stockland. Care was taken not to ignore the issues with a minority interest. The Plan represents a vision for Stockland for the next 5 to 10 years. It is not an end but a beginning.

Some of the actions can be performed by parishioners themselves, others will involve dealing with outside agencies and organisations including Local Government to try to get things done. The times to complete the various tasks will range from months to a few years (some have started already).

In producing the plan we have demonstrated that parishioners have a genuine interest in their community, giving it greater credibility when looking for project funding or pressing for change.

The following pages are the body of the Plan, each subject being given a page. The key issues are listed along with a brief description of the current situation. This is followed by the detailed action required, a target timescale to complete, who is to lead (be responsible for ensuring the action takes place) and Partners (those who will help us to achieve our goals). At the foot of each page some graphics show a subset of the results from the questionnaire, either as numbers of people or as percentages. These figures represent the views of those who completed the questionnaire and not the Parish as a whole, since not everyone in the parish completed the questionnaire.

Abbreviations are expanded on inside back cover.



Our consultation day, 9 April 2005

Stockland Views Action Plan

Key Issues

- Continued programme of improvements to facilities in Village Hall
- Car Park resurfacing
- Sports Pavilion

Village Hall

Current Situation

The Hall is very actively used by the village for a wide range of activities but has been in need of update and repair for some years. The first stages of improvement were achieved through a substantial DEFRA grant but this was insufficient to pay for urgent re-roofing and improvements to catering and meeting facilities. It had been hoped to achieve this through a substantial Lottery grant but this was turned down without explanation, as indeed were other halls elsewhere in the UK. The village has a very active fund raising campaign within the community, Kickstart, which has been instrumental in enhancing existing grant applications.

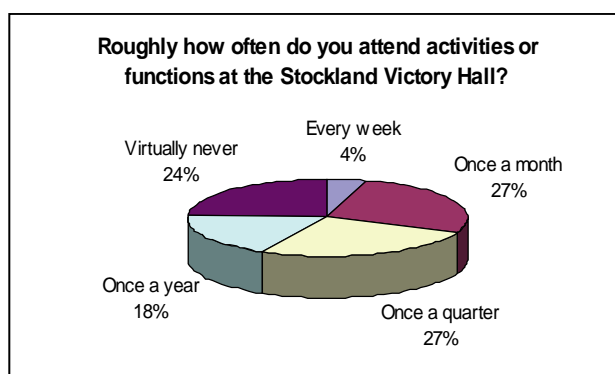
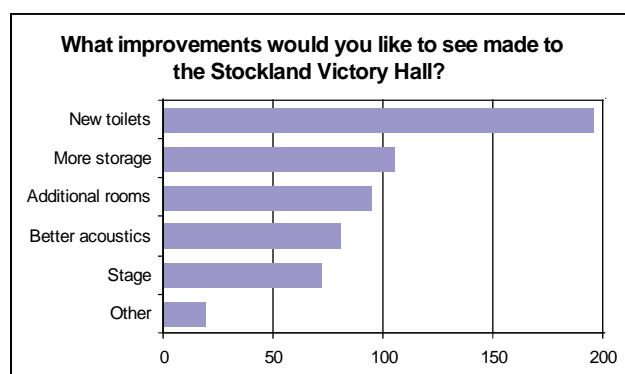
The DEFRA grant has however resulted in some major benefits outlined in the Parish Plan survey, namely new toilets, new Pre-School and extended storage facilities. Other needs noted in the Survey

remain to be added, principally additional rooms, improved stage facilities and sports changing rooms.

The questions in the Survey attracted a huge amount of comment and suggestions for additional use and reflected the wide variety of clubs, focus groups, and social activities that do or could use the Hall (see also Societies, Clubs and Social, p. 8), such that it is often fully utilised throughout the week. It is also used for a number of sporting activities due to its position adjacent to the cricket pitch, play areas and tennis court.

There is reasonably extensive parking, although in need of resurfacing, it is the only car park within the central village area and as such is used for other activities such as ramblers, wedding parking and the Primary School.

Actions	Time	Lead	Partners
Explore funding opportunities for enhancements to the Hall via additional activities such as possibly relocating the Post Office and starting Village Shop	O	HMC	Post Office VSC Village Halls Advice Service CCD Community Enterprise Advice Service CCD
Given funding, continued programme of enhancements to Hall facilities	O	HMC	
Additional meeting rooms and catering facilities within the Hall	M	HMC	Kick Start HMC and affiliated organisations
Possible sports pavilion on additional land to free up use of Hall for additional activities. Existing changing rooms in Hall could then become meeting rooms, kitchens etc.	L	HMC	PC
Improve parking facilities at Hall and clearly signpost such availability from centre of village	S	HMC	



Key Issues

- All Weather Sports Pitch
- Additional Tennis Courts and lighting
- Alternative site for Cricket Pitch

Outdoor Sports Facilities

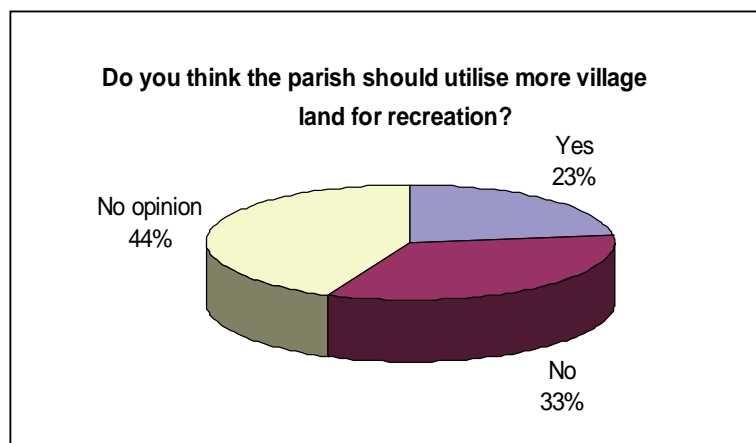
Current Situation

Sports facilities around the Hall are restricted by space with the cricket club suffering from short boundaries, the tennis club is in need of an additional court for competitions and active demand from members. Lighting would enable the courts to be useable in the evenings when daylight hours are shorter. There are very limited facilities for other sports due to the dominant

position of the cricket pitch. For instance, there is a lack of a football pitch or surface area for other sports, which might help to meet demand from youth groups and alleviate crime.

There is a clear demand for a wider range of sports facilities but this would be difficult to meet without additional land.

Actions	Time	Lead	Partners
Form a group answerable to HMC to investigate the improvement of sports facilities for all age groups	S	HMC	Leisure East Devon
Expand boundaries of village playing field for cricket or additional sports	L		
Explore funding opportunities (Sport for All etc.) for grants towards better sports facilities.	L		Devon Playing Fields Association
Purchase additional land for all weather sports pitch that can be used for football, additional tennis court and other sports such as Badminton, Hockey etc.	L	HMC	Kick Start HMC and affiliated organisations PC
Move cricket pitch to land on other side of the village beyond Church and build new Pavilion. Other villages use such Pavilions as additional resource for meetings or recreational activities	L		



Key Issues

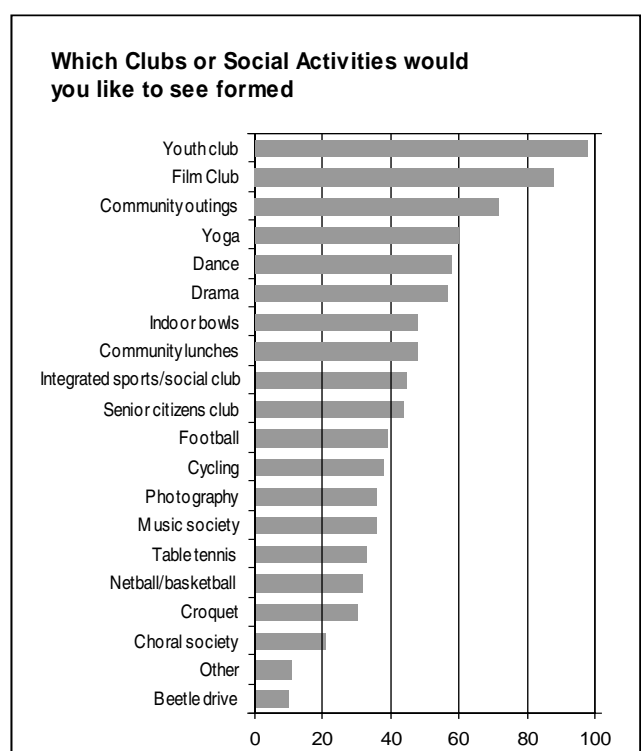
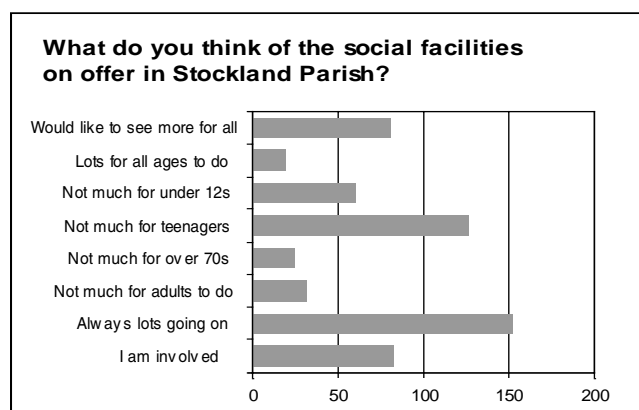
- Youth Activities
- Activities for the elderly
- New clubs

Social, Clubs & Societies

Current Situation

Most participants agreed that the Village has a strong sense of community but there was a low level of interest in assisting with volunteer or self-help schemes within the community. Nevertheless, there was a clear demand for more clubs and events within the village as well as better support and facilities for the young and the elderly.

Actions	Time	Lead	Partners
Set up a Stockland Club Interests Steering Group (SCISG) to help launch/manage clubs for which a need has been indicated in the survey including : Youth, Film Community Outings, Yoga, Dance and Drama	S	PC	
Research/provide more opportunities for youth activities within the village	S	PC	Leisure East Devon Voluntary Youth Services
Establish a youth club or sports facilities suited for youth groups	S	PC	Social Inclusion Programme CCD
Research/provide activity opportunities for elderly	S	PC	Access and Awareness Officer CCD WI
Start a regular lunch club for the elderly	S	PC	
Establish programme of evening classes	S	PC	Rural Outreach Learning Initiative



Key Issues

- Poor road maintenance, ditch clearing
- Parking
- Parish Council Community Awareness

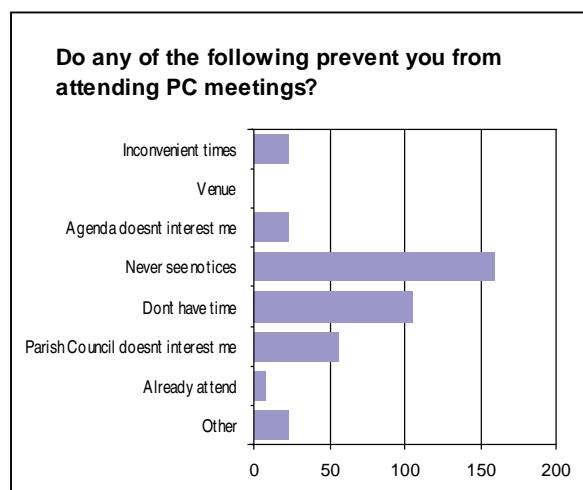
Public Services Parish Council

Current Situation

The pattern of responses to the Survey was as expected in a rural village in a county where spending on services has been steadily reducing over the years. Fire, Police and Ambulance attracted a wide spread of responses without showing major dissatisfaction, although there would appear to be growing concern at diminishing police activity within the community.

Strong negative responses were mainly confined to the state of the local roads, surface water drainage and damage from agricultural activities. Parking was a problem in the central area of the village due to farm traffic along narrow roads. It was also noted that few were aware of Parish Council meetings or that they could attend in person and raise concern about issues or services.

Actions	Time	Lead	Partners
Increase pressure for road repairs and resurfacing	S	PC	DCC
Publish phone number for reporting road damage	S	PC	(self) PP
Improve Communication between Community and Parish Council	S	PC	(self)



How would you rate the following public and local gov services in the parish?

Service	No opinion	Good	Reasonable	Poor
Road surface maintenance	20	4	78	292
Surface water drainage	30	15	67	282
Winter services	37	22	97	226
Roadside care/street cleaning	48	26	93	216
Agricultural drainage	86	31	79	166
DCC	73	18	198	88
Mains water	52	137	101	83
East Devon DC	61	30	207	83
Police (community)	117	48	119	81
Police (emergency)	144	67	108	45
Mains electricity	14	192	145	38
Hospital transport	228	35	47	29
Refuse collection	12	244	117	25
Stockland Parish Council	139	81	131	24
Ambulance	129	156	78	12
Fire service	181	89	87	9

Key Issues

- Local vandalism
- Petty theft

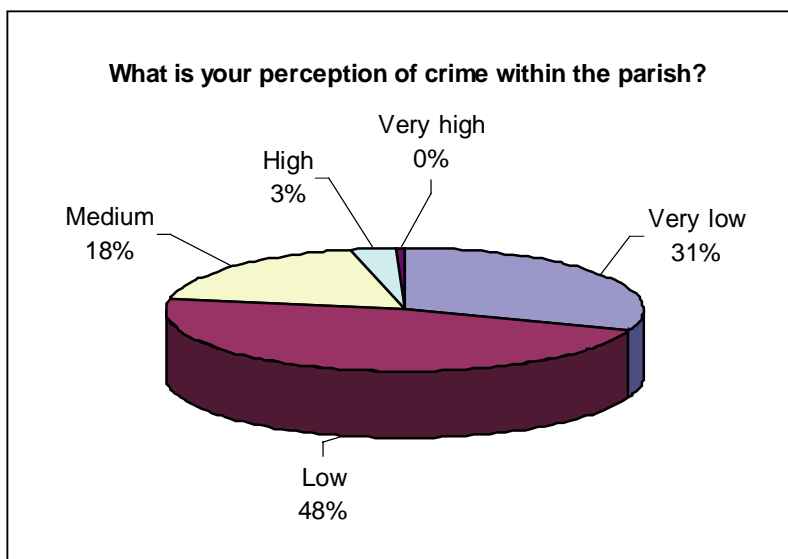
Crime Prevention

Current Situation

Crime was thought to be reasonably well under control but a spate of petty thefts and vandalism was a growing concern. Both the school and the

Hall had been the subject of frequent vandalism and theft, yet there was no local Police or community activity to prevent this.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>
Community involvement in inhibiting crime	S	PC	
Greater communication with community Police Officer	S	PC	Police
Renewal of Neighbourhood Watch scheme	S	PC	
Publicising Property Marking System	S	PC	
Provide activities for the young	S	PC	Leisure East Devon SCISG



Key Issues

- Affordable Housing
- Council Housing
- Shared Equity Housing
- Sheltered Housing



Current Situation

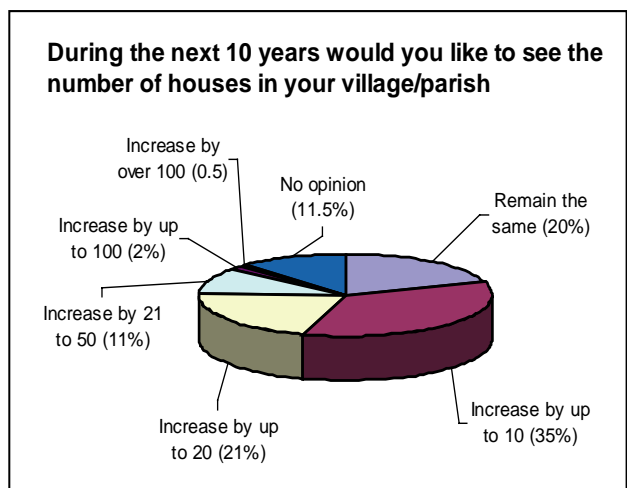
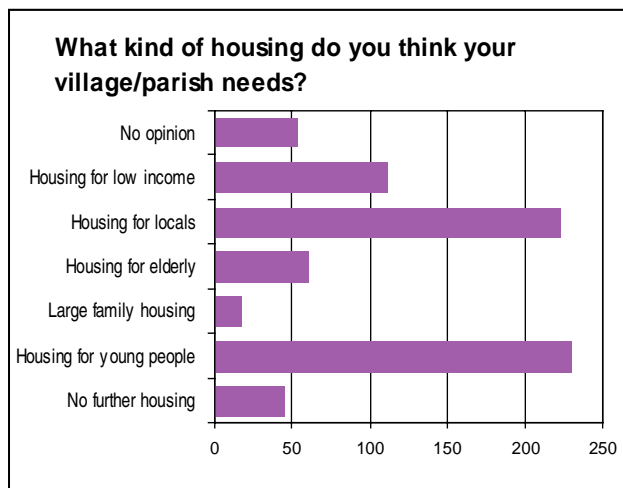
The high cost of housing in Stockland (as elsewhere) is making it impossible for younger people to stay in the parish or for new young families to move here. This may have a detrimental effect on the ‘community’ in the coming years. 23 households have indicated that 45 members of these households would be in need of local housing within the next 5 years. There was a strong call for Council/Rented accommodation & Shared Equity Housing. Also the need was recognised for housing for locals and young people, and sheltered housing for the elderly.

The survey indicated that a large number of residents felt the community would benefit from a

development of a small number (around 10) low cost or shared equity homes along with some Council housing. Additionally this would benefit the school and the shop if reinstated. There are, however, very tight restrictions on new building in the parish and sewage treatment capacity is limited.

At the April Consultation Day there were several comments on the amount of extensions being built making existing ‘affordable’ housing ‘unaffordable’. Further comments were made about permission being given for barns to be converted to holiday accommodation but being denied for conversion to housing for occupation

Actions	Time	Lead	Partners
Undertake Housing Needs Survey	ML	PC	
Look at suitable ways to provide low cost/affordable housing for local people	ML	PC	Rural Housing Enabler CCD Environment Directorate of EDDC
Determine more accurate need for Council Housing	L	PC	
Contact Housing Associations	ML	PC	Housing Associations
Look at producing a Village Design Statement	S	PC	Environment Directorate of EDDC



Key Issue

- Provide support to local business

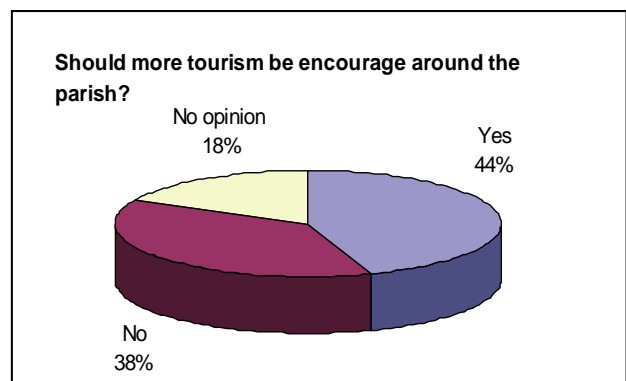
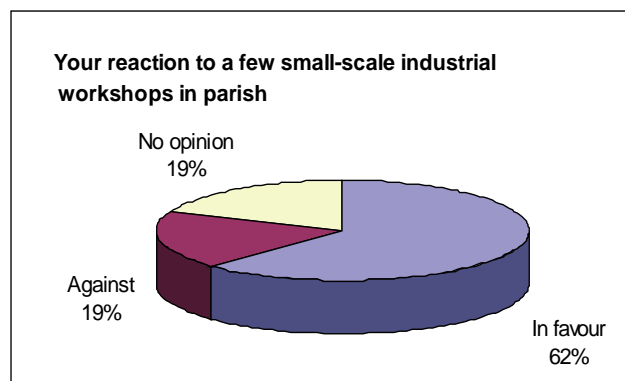
Employment & Local Economy

Current Situation

The primary industry in the parish is agriculture. Other businesses include Software Development, Light Engineering, The Post Office, Building, and Tourism (inc Pub). There were 2 people unemployed (0.5%), others mainly being employed, retired or in education.

The idea of small-scale light industrial workshops was well received, and there was general popular support for a range or tourism facilities/activities in the village.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>
Provide support to interested local businesses and proposed start-ups for publicity, grants and funding through appropriate outside organisations	ML	PC	Blackdown Hill ANOB South West Tourist Office Business Link Women & Micro Enterprise CCD



Key Issues

- Stockland Village Web Site
- Sharing of resources and ideas within and outside the village

Information & Communications

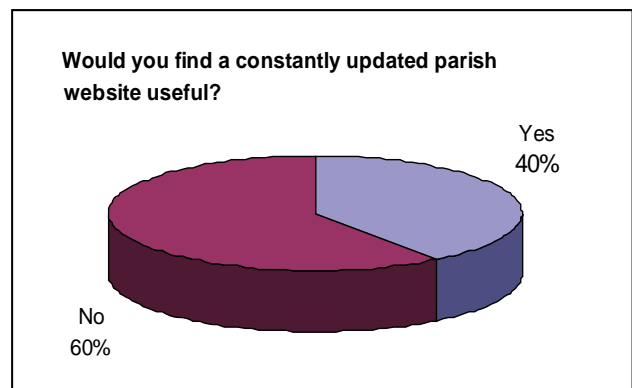
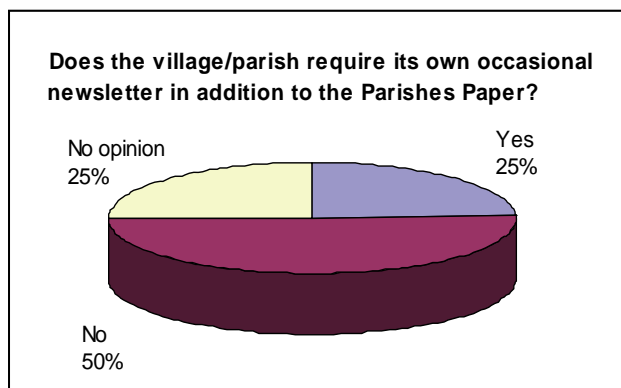
Current Situation

Parishioners get information about what is going on locally from a range of sources including local papers, the village and Post Office notice boards, the grapevine and of course particularly *The Parishes Paper* which is taken widely within the Parish and serves the community well.

There was some support for the idea of our own Web site (40%), and a number of offers of help.

Aside from the results of the questionnaire it has been suggested that our community could benefit by sharing ideas with our neighbouring parishes. The 'bulk heating oil' project in Membury is one of possibly many ideas that we could adopt. Other 'sharing' opportunities must exist both within our own parish and between neighbouring parishes

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>
Form Village web provisional team to research content and develop web site.	S	PC	HMC SCISG Neighbouring PCs
Liase with neighbouring parishes to facilitate exchange of ideas	S	PC	Agriculture & Community CCD UK Villages Website Village Halls Advice Service CCD



Key Issues

- Inadequate public transport for elderly

Public Transport

Current Situation

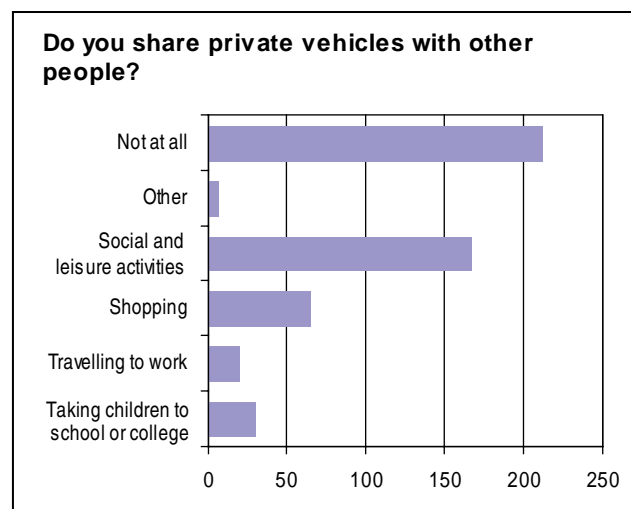
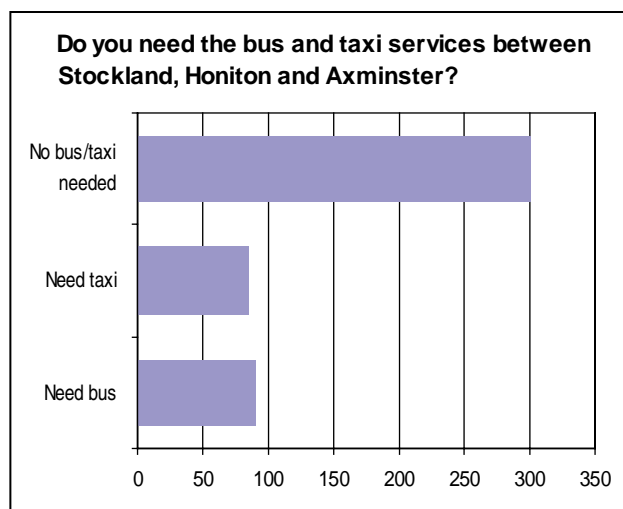
There is a bus service to Axminster only on Thursdays and to Honiton on Saturdays. There is a Fare Car service to Honiton only (from March 2007). About 90 respondents need a bus or taxi service between Stockland and Honiton, Axminster or Chard. There could be further withdrawal of services if these are not subscribed to sufficiently.

Since timings of existing services may not always be convenient for Hospital/Doctor appointments

and it is unlikely that public transport could be improved with current population, there is clearly a need for an alternative.

Transport for the elderly where existing taxi/bus services have been withdrawn could probably best be served through a voluntary car service through a Neighbour Care scheme, a service requested a number of times at the first public consultation day.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>
Encourage the use of existing public transport facilities.	O	PC	
Improve publicity of available services. Notice boards, Parishes Paper	S	PC	PCG TRIP Parishes Paper
Investigate the introduction of Voluntary Car Scheme, maybe operated by a Good Neighbour Scheme	S	PC	WI Access & Awareness Officer CCD
Investigate system of co-ordination with Ring-and-Ride Scheme	S	PC	Other Parishes
Investigate Car Sharing Scheme	S	PC	



Key Issues

- Speed restrictions
- Road signs
- Danger spots

Road Safety

Current Situation

Thankfully we have not in the recent past had a serious incident in the village itself. The village (centre) currently has no speed restrictions and 56% of respondents felt that some form of restriction was needed.

Road safety signs in the parish are not as extensive as they are in many parishes and possibly this helps to keep the rural feel. 47% of respondents felt that signage was adequate but

34% that it was not. The areas most at risk are the school and village hall where there is a lot of traffic parking or manouvering, and children in the vicinity.

Over half respondents suggested that there were danger spots on the parish roads and about 150 such spots were cited (some citations are duplicated)

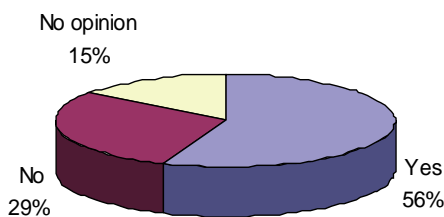
Actions

Time Lead Partners

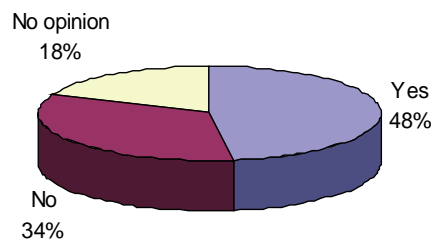
Consult with Highways to look at improving road safety through some limited additional signage and possible appropriate speed restrictions

ML PC DCC
Primary School

Would you like to see traffic speed restrictions introduced in the village/parish?



Are the road sign warnings in the village/parish adequate for safety?



Key Issues

- Difficulty in getting to Health Services
- Difficulty in getting to the shops
- Difficulty in getting to village events

Health & Community Care

Current Situation

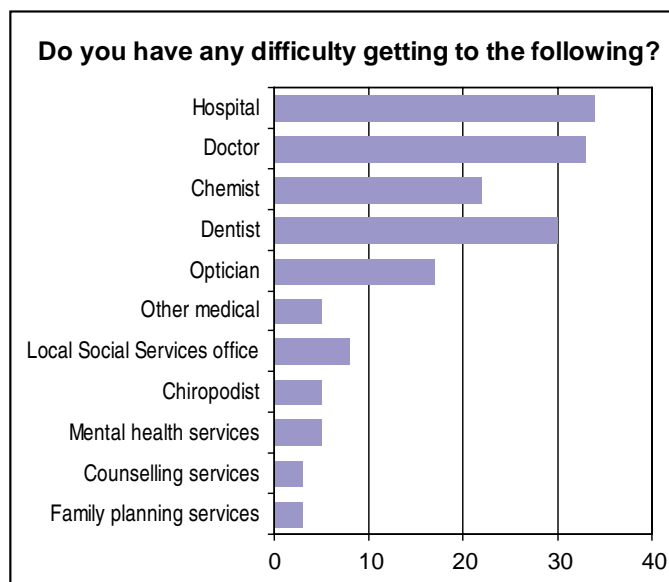
45% of the parish are 60+ years of age. The more senior of these have difficulty with transport. Many years ago we lost our valuable village weekly surgery so everyone is obliged to travel to the surgery in Axminster except in extenuating circumstances.

About 10% of questionnaire respondents are unable to drive themselves to Surgery, Hospital,

Chemist, Dentist, Optician etc. This situation will deteriorate with the loss of Fare Car service to Chard and Axminster.

Several years ago we lost our Prescription Delivery Service which has been sorely missed. At our Consultation Day there were numerous requests for help with shopping, a volunteer car service, and general help getting to local events.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>
Investigate the possibility of providing a voluntary car service for those in genuine need	S	PC	PCG WI
Investigate the need for a general Neighbourhood Care Scheme	S	PC	Access & Awareness Officer CCD Other Parishes
Investigate the reinstatement of Prescription Delivery Service	S	PC	Axminster Surgery



Key Issues

- Great willingness of parishioners to recycle all waste material
- Inadequate facilities for the collection of materials for recycling

Recycling

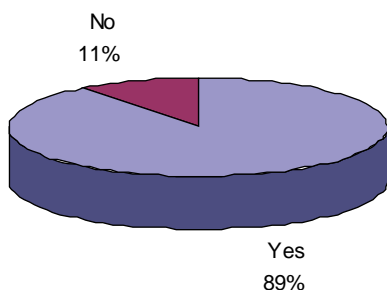
Current Situation

Stockland Parishioners want to lead the way to greener Devon. Almost 90%(371/415) of respondents to the questionnaire indicated that they would recycle a higher proportion of refuse if a separate collection was made at the door. To

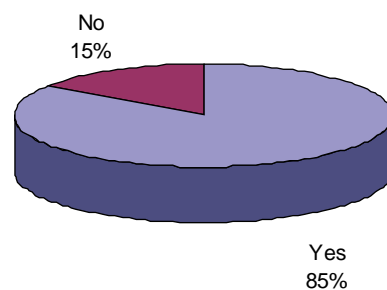
meet the needs both of Stockland parish and, presumably, of the District for improved efficiency in waste management (as outlined in the leading article of View from Axminster dated 5.9.06).

Actions	Time	Lead	Partners
Existing bins for glass bottles, tins and paper at the Village Hall to be emptied more frequently	M		
A bin for recycling plastic bottles be provided at the Village Hall	M		
Recycling bins be set up at appropriate points within the hamlets, including Heathstock, Millhayes, Shore Bottom and Broadhayes	M		
Bins for recycling other materials (tinfoil, cardboard, polystyrene, polythene etc.) be phased in at central points in the Parish	L	PC	EDDC DCC
Green boxes for recycling bottles, cans and paper (and, in due course, other materials like plastic, garden waste) be collected at the door (<i>medium term</i>)	M		
Non-recyclable refuse in bags be collected from the door <u>less</u> frequently, e.g. fortnightly	M		

Would you be prepared to recycle a higher proportion of your refuse if a separate collection was made from your door?



Would you use a collection point for plastic if one were available in the village?



Key Issues

- maintenance of the fabric of church and grounds
- other non-secular use of the church

Church Building & Churchyard

Current Situation

Happily to almost 80% of respondents, the fabric, building and history of the church are deemed important. 70% would like to see the church used more for other events and that 46% of respondents would volunteer to help with the church and its grounds

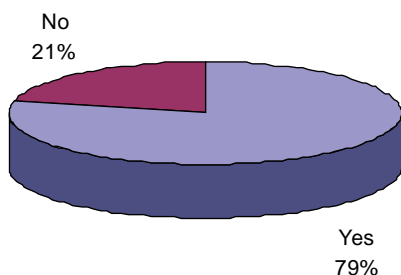
To the longer-term residents of the parish, the churchyard is of particular significance as the resting place of deceased family members. We

understand that the PCC have accepted the need for over-burial so space in the graveyard is now less of an issue.

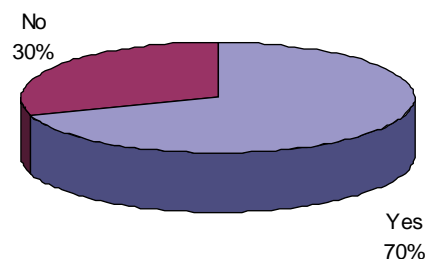
“Friends” of St. Michaels currently provide useful funds and occasional labour in support of the church and its maintenance. From the questionnaire, it is evident there are 53 people (out of total 116 respondents) prepared to help.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>
Help to ensure that the fabric and surrounds of the church are well maintained in the longer term	O		
Encouraging events (eg. concerts) that would help support maintenance work	O		
Utilising willing helpers. A notice might be submitted to the Parishes' Paper to track the questionnaire's respondents so as to enlist their help, as a supplement to that of the Friends	S	PCC FSM	(self)
Volunteer days would be run on an occasional basis	S		
Monitoring the physical state of the church through feedback from the Chairman of the Friends	S		

Is the fabric of the church, its building and its history important to you?



Would you like to see the church building used for more non-religious events and activities within the parish?



Key Issues

- Popular support to reinstate the village shop

Village Shop

Current Situation

There has been no village shop since October 1982 due to increased competition, greater parishioner mobility and the difficulty in keeping the enterprise commercially viable. The public consultation indicated a large proportion of the parish would like to see our village shop resurrected. Apart from the provisioning service it could also provide a

meeting place for all age groups, for coffee etc, and help to further strengthen the sense of community within the parish. Other villages have managed to achieve this by getting their shops back and operating them as non-commercial, volunteer run enterprises. Initial research has shown that funding and expertise are available to assist us in doing the same.

Actions

Time Lead Partners

Formalise and invite new members to the Village Shop Committee (VSC). Constitution options to be considered with the guidance from ViRSA

A search is made for suitable premises. All possible site alternatives in the village to be identified, considered with planning authorities. High profile and easy access critical.

SM

A business plan is drafted (Dalwood as a model)

SM

PC

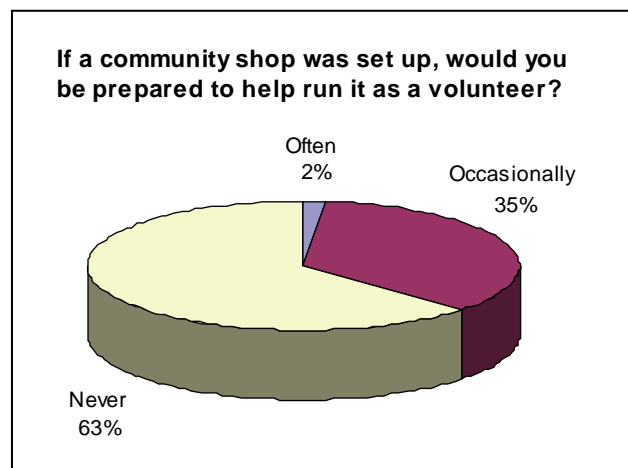
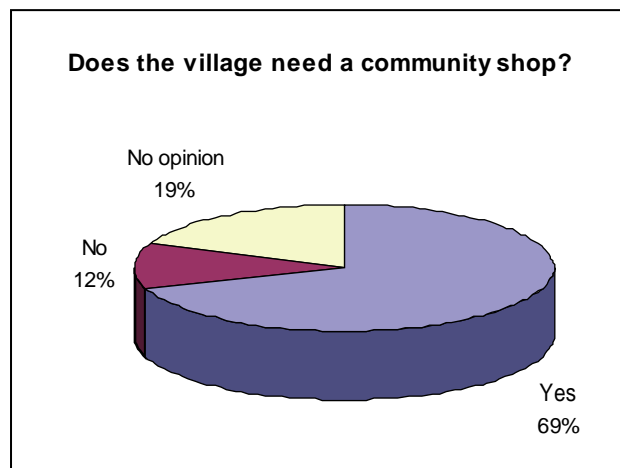
A prospectus be produced covering objective, funding needs, management structure

SM

Volunteers be sought for all roles

SM

ViRSA
Dalwood Village Shop Committee
VSC
EDDC



Key Issues

- Poorly maintained footpaths
- Need for better footpath signs and maps
- Maintenance Working Parties publicity

Footpaths & Turbaries

Current Situation

We are fortunate to live in this Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with its network of public footpaths and bridleways along with the Turbaries. The survey indicated that a large number of our parishioners use these

facilities occasionally. However, maintenance of footpaths is considered in some areas to be sadly lacking. There is a need to provide a map of local paths both for locals and visitors. There was also a call for improved access to the Turbaries.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>
Directional footpath signs from village centre be improved	S		
Large scale footpath map to be displayed centrally (eg. King's Arms, Village Notice Board)	S		
Production of a leaflet describing approximately 6 parish walks, including those over the Turbaries	I	PC	PC Turbaries Sub Committee
Improved clearing of footpaths	S		
Dates of Turbaries volunteer working parties to be advertised in the Parishes Paper	S		

