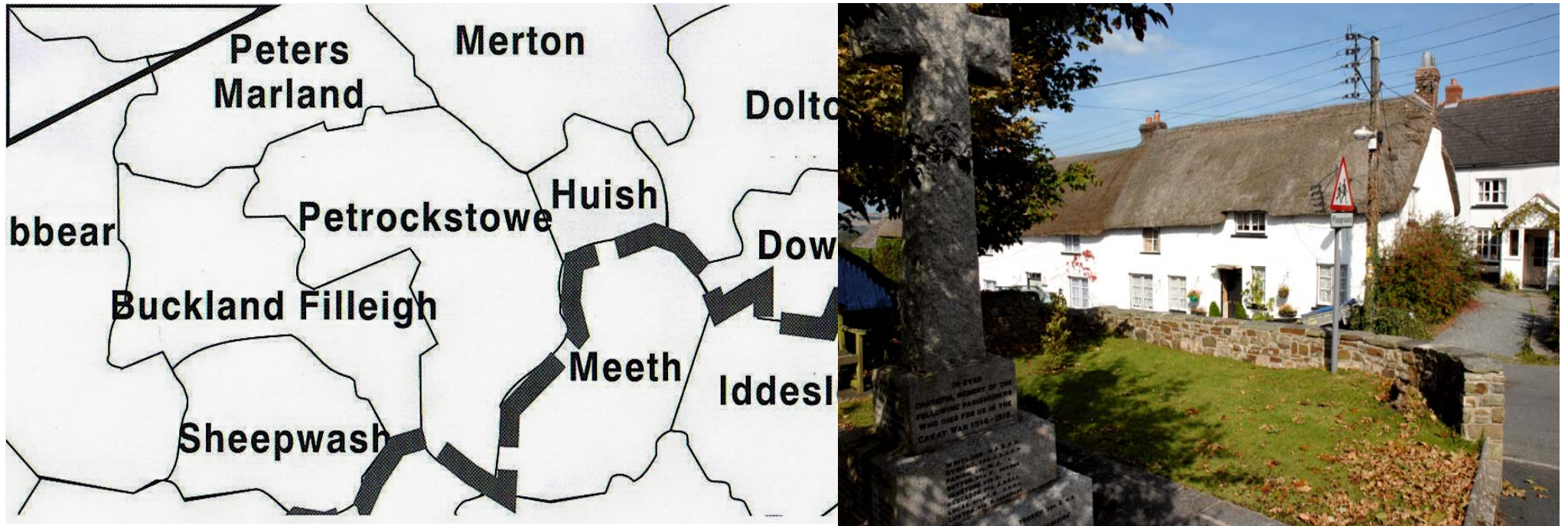


# Petrockstowe Parish Plan 2008



Compiled from information obtained from a Questionnaire distributed to 200 houses and completed questionnaires collected in February 2008.

## Introduction

### Petrockstowe

Petrockstowe Parish is one of the larger Parishes in the area just within the Torridge District Council boundary. It comprises a nucleus village of 133 houses at its centre, surrounded by agricultural land, mainly cattle farming.

The village itself is situated on one of the major roads which formed part of the Great Torrington Turnpike Trust of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century leading from Hatherleigh to Great Torrington. Now bypassed by the A386.



### History

There is evidence of Bronze Age settlements at the bottom of Brandise Hill leading up to the village from Hatherleigh which indicates early habitation in the area. Many of the houses within the Parish are mentioned in the Domesday book with the area around the Church, in the village itself, "The Square", being made up of traditional cob and thatch cottages.

The most recent development of 17 4 bedroomed houses, Townland Rise, was completed in 2006.

### Now

Once a thriving community maintaining several trades within the village, including wheelwrights, blacksmiths and carpenters. It even had its own train station transporting clay from the works as well as passengers. The village has become a mainly dormitory and retirement area with the former train station forming part of the Tarka Trail.

One of the clay works some distance outside the village is still operative with heavy lorries passing through the Parish but the main occupation carried out within the Parish is farming.

There is a small industrial area of some 6 units near "Petrockstowe Station".

At present there is no infrastructure, shop, doctors, etc, and buses travel to and from the village twice a week giving limited access to these facilities at Great Torrington, Bideford and Barnstaple. For those without their own transport, ring and ride, community transport organisations and the goodwill of the villagers are relied on.



***The village amenities at present include:***



***Baxter Hall***

A village hall- The Baxter Hall was built from a willed donation. Run by a committee of volunteers the day to day maintenance is funded by money raised through the various societies hiring the hall and functions held there. Additional money is required for larger development and maintenance such as providing additional facilities and improvements to the car parking area.



***Church***

St. Petroc's-one of the Domesday Churches of Devon containing over 700 years of history. A church existed here from the early part of 12<sup>th</sup> Century with various parts being rebuilt and extended. The cobbled path leading to the church between yew hedges was built by French Prisoners of war during the English Civil War and the graveyard contains a burial mound containing the remains of cavaliers who were killed during this time.

Services are still held here on a weekly basis.

A church with such history requires maintenance and improvements.



***Methodist Chapel***

The first stone for the Chapel was laid in 1932 and it was completed in 1934. A typical village chapel it has beautiful stained glass windows and architecture typical of the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

It is still used regularly for services and funerals. Kingdom Kids is held here during school breaks to cater for the children of Petrockstowe.



**Play area:**

Situated in the centre of the village and built on the site of the old school house it is run by a committee of volunteers and maintained through fund raising within the village.

It provides a safe environment for the children of the village to play.



**Recreation Ground**

A recreation ground some way out of the village rented from a local landowner.

Typical English village life is reflected here in the summer with cricket matches, fetes and other events being held.

Again run by a committee of volunteers and largely maintained through events held there and the hard work of volunteers. Larger projects do need the help of outside funding.



**Public House**

An old coaching Inn with a somewhat chequered past, which together with the Baxter Hall, provides the main areas for socialising throughout the year within the village.



### ***Environment***

Set in unspoilt Devon countryside surrounded by fields and forestry areas, with part of the Tarka trail running through it. Transected by numerous small lanes and ancient hedgerows.

The picture above shows the village viewed from the Tarka Trail with the older part nestling around the church and the new development of Townland Rise to the right.



### ***Methodology***

From the outset it was the aim of the Parish Plan Steering Committee, by means of a Questionnaire, to gather information, to identify the needs and views of the Parishioners on as broad a spectrum as possible and taking into account the diversity of lifestyles and age groups within the Parish.

A Questionnaire was composed, to cover all aspects including all volunteer groups within the community, who work hard providing various clubs, societies and activities to promote a good community spirit, to identify not only the residents needs but those of these clubs and societies so that they cannot only maintain their facilities but hopefully help them develop further.

The Questionnaire was then distributed to 200 households and the completed Questionnaires collected. In all 115 were returned giving a 58% result.

The data from all the Questionnaires was put onto an XL spreadsheet including all comments made. From these results this final document was compiled. Where percentages were worked out on the spread sheet these were either rounded up or down. In some cases the total percentage may not add up to precisely 100% and it was not the intention of the Steering Committee to sway these percentages either way. Data contained within this spreadsheet can be obtained from the Parish Council.

### ***The Questionnaire***

The Questionnaire was composed in 2 parts:

Part 1 Household

Part 2: Personal

Housing

Transport

Environment

Jobs and Employment

Community Services / Access Services

Leisure / Sport / Amenities

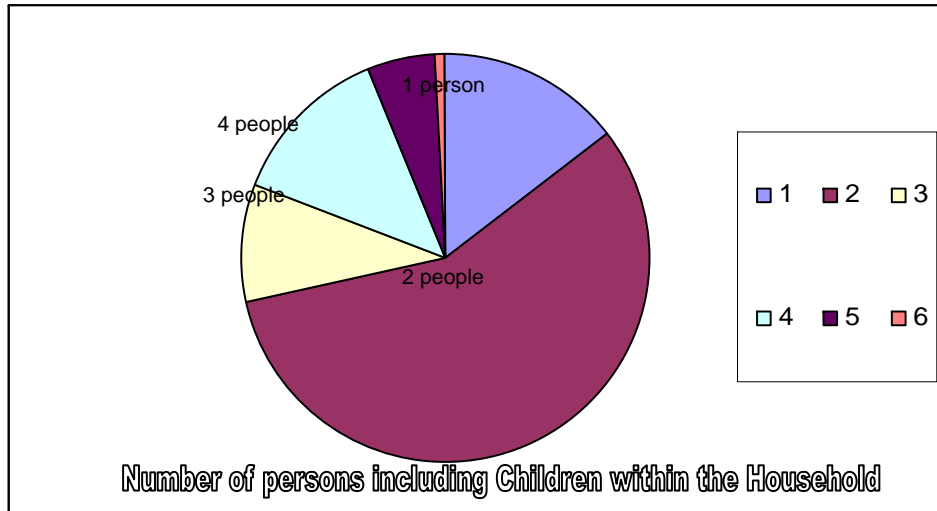
Health and Wellbeing

General Comments.

**The Results:  
Part 1**

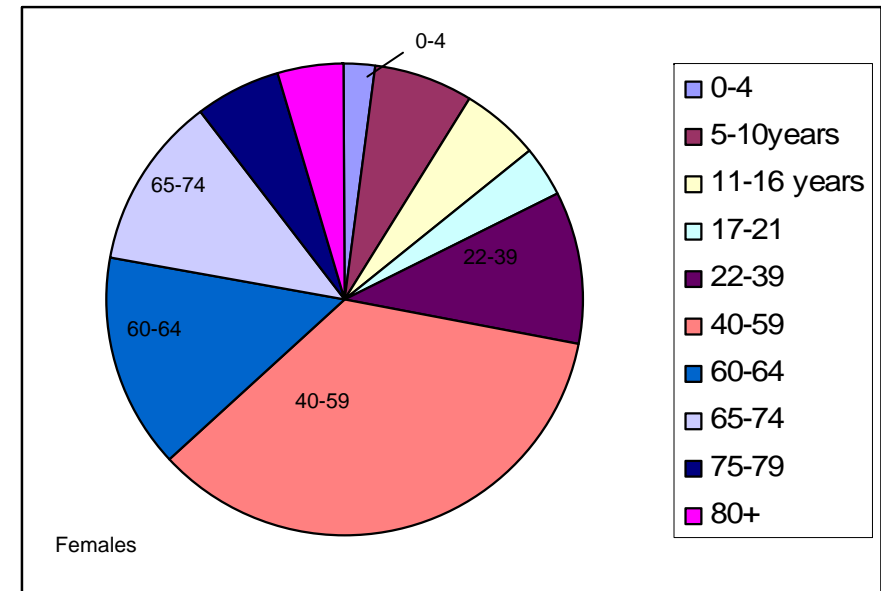
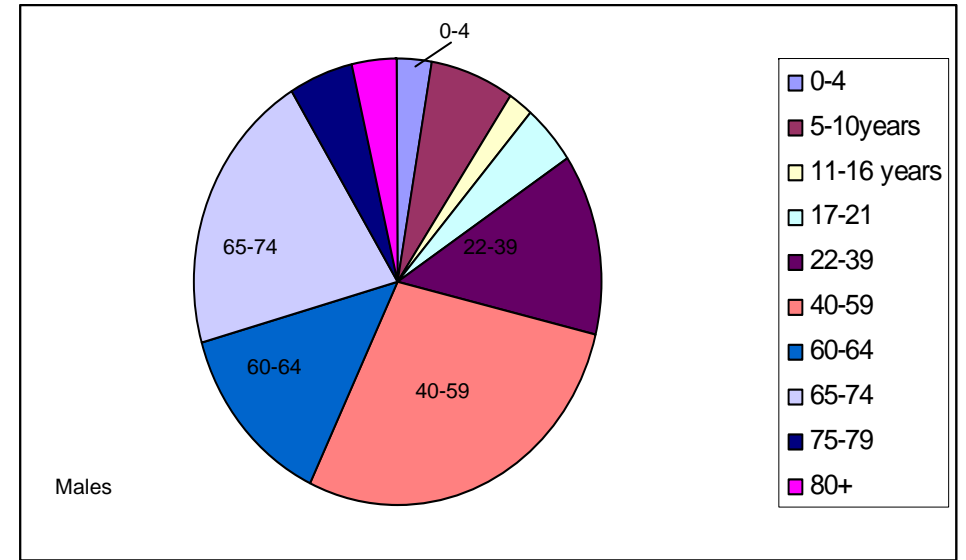
**Household**

The chart below indicates the number of people living within the household. 57% of the households have 2 people.



The majority age range, 31%, is between 40- 59 with 14% of these male and 17% female.

41% of the population of the Parish is over 60 indicating a high percentage in the retirement age range, with an overall 4% being over 80 years of age.



## ***Length of time in the Parish***

### ***The Survey***

The highest majority of people, 30%, (35 households), have lived within the Parish for between 1-5 years although 46% have been here for over 16 years indicating a settled population.

100% of those who returned the Questionnaire declared this was their main residence.

## ***Housebound, special needs, childcare and family***

### ***Present Position***

7% of those who returned the Questionnaires are either housebound or have special needs with 8 of these being registered disabled. 92% of these are cared for within their own home.

### ***Aims***

Look at providing more support for those carers within the Parish such as setting up support groups.

### ***Actions***

Parish Council to talk to those in need and consult with various care agencies to ascertain the best way forward to cater for the needs of these residents.

## ***Childcare***

### ***Present Position***

There is a small need for childcare within the Parish. Those requiring childcare facilities at present can travel up to 10 miles. 9 households in total expressed a need for childcare with 2 households travelling up to 10 miles.

### ***Aims***

Look at providing childminding / daycare facilities for children to encourage younger families to remain in the Parish.

### ***Actions***

Contact various child care associations to determine the best course of action.

## ***Afterschool activities***

### ***Present Position***

Only 30% of those with children up to 16 years of age were unable to take part in after school activities. The majority of those unable to take part was due to a lack of public transport and suitable activities on offer.

### ***Aims***

To provide facilities and activities for the 6-13 and 13 – 17 age range.

### ***Actions***

Look at providing more facilities and activities within the Parish to cater for the different age groups.

Introducing a youth club for the younger teenagers and activity groups for those in the 6-13 age group.

## ***Members who have moved away***

### ***Present Position***

18% of the households had members of the family who moved away largely due to employment or lack of suitable employment within the Parish and there being no suitable starter homes to buy.

## ***Alternative accommodation***

### ***Present Position***

17% of households are in need of alternative accommodation now, 4% requiring starter homes to buy or rent, 1% requiring it being adapted for disabled and 3% requiring either residential or sheltered accommodation.

### ***Aims***

- To take into account housing needs shown up in the Questionnaire and addressing this issue with regard to any future planning development.
- To look at helping people remain within the Parish and addressing their requirements.

### ***Actions***

Future development within the Parish should be looked at with a view to encouraging people to remain in the Parish by means of starter homes and adequate transport and childcare facilities.

Within any future development it is felt there should be a mix of housing answering the needs of those within the Parish. Primarily the development should be affordable with some housing taking into account the needs and requirements of the disabled and/ or elderly.

This development should also reflect the nature of and be in keeping with that already within the Parish.

## **Money on local projects**

### **Present Position**

37% of those who answered this question would be happy to contribute more towards local projects with the majority of these expressing clearly that only if the money was going to be used for this purpose.

Many were concerned that the distribution of additional money taken would not necessarily be spent on Parish projects.

There were a few who felt that too much was being taken already and that they should be informed of the budgetary needs of individual projects.

On the whole the Parish works hard to raise money and support local projects and facilities provided.

### **Aims**

- To maintain the present facilities provided in the village
- To look at the need for additional facilities / groups
- To look at how best to fund the above

### **Summary**

At the moment the population of Petrockstowe is of an age and status whereby they, on the whole, can afford larger homes and have their own transport.

It is felt that to encourage younger residents to remain in the Parish suitable affordable housing should be provided and a regular and adequate transport system.

To encourage younger families to remain in the area the provision of adequate childcare facilities should be considered.

As the Parish lacks good employment opportunities in most cases public transport is required to be able to live within the Parish and to be able to work. Otherwise Petrockstowe will become more of a dormitory village for those who have their own transport and can afford to live here.

### **Actions**

Any housing development within the Parish should only be considered by the District Council with the aim of encouraging people to remain. Therefore:

- Offering affordable housing,
- Housing for the disabled and elderly

- Ensuring that an adequate transport system is in place to enable people to have the opportunity to travel to and from their destinations for at least normal working hours.

This would encourage younger people to remain in the Parish and not be forced to look elsewhere.

Look at more ways of funding the current projects, societies and facilities provided.

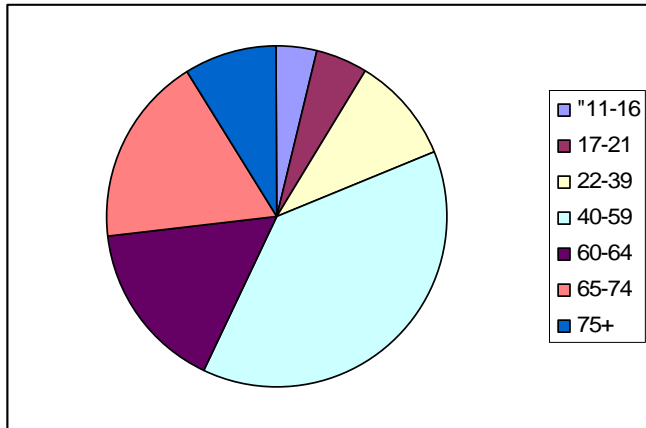


## Part 2 Personal

This section was completed by residents of the Parish aged 11 and over only.

The ratio of male to female completing this section was split evenly at 50% each.

### Age Range



The largest percentage fell within the 40-59 age band, 39%.

### Housing

The question asked "If the survey established a local housing need, would you be prepared to see additional development in the Parish to meet it?"

57% of those who answered agreed to additional development with many stipulating that it should only be for local need and that it be affordable.

- Several sites were identified for possible development including:
- The area behind Rectory Rise
- Top of Brandise Hill
- Near the recreation field
- The area between Springfields and Oaklands

### Present Position

The Parish mainly consists of character properties, cottages and older farm houses.

Development over the years has on the whole taken into account the general nature of the area although there has been a mix of development styles.

More recently development within the village has not addressed the need for affordable housing or the provision of housing for the disabled and elderly.



### Aims

- To encourage younger families and individuals to remain in the Parish.
- To provide suitable sheltered accommodation for the more elderly , either to rent or buy
- To take into account the needs of the disabled within the Parish and some housing to be adapted to meet their needs.

### Actions

Any future development within the Parish should address the need for less expensive housing and to be in keeping with the overall ambience of the village and surrounding areas taking into account the aims.

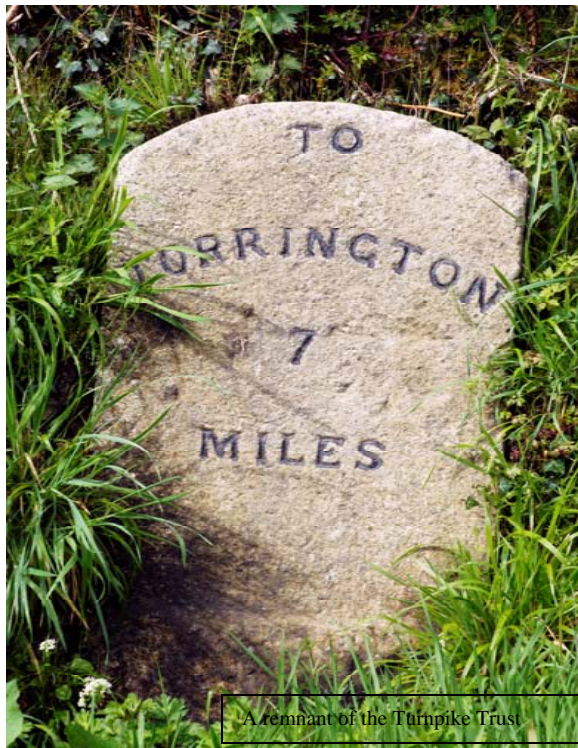
## Transport

There were a lot of very interesting and varied comments regarding transport and travel. This section falls broadly into two main categories:-

1. ACCESS within and outside of the Parish
2. TRAFFIC and how it affects the Parishioners.

## Access

You were asked if you found difficulty accessing School/College -Work - Shops-Hospital - Doctors - Dentists. There appears to be no problem travelling to and from school and college, however all those who responded had problems because of lack of suitable public transport and the cost of fuel. The general opinion seems to be that unless you have your own transport it is virtually impossible to access any of the above.



The survey results show that only 12% make use of the bus service and Ring & Ride. 79% said they would make some use of them if a more frequent service was introduced.

The most popular destination was Okehampton followed by Torrington, Barnstaple, Hatherleigh and Bideford in that order.

Most people were able to access social and leisure activities and nobody used a local taxi service.

Although most respondents felt that they were satisfied with the facilities for pedestrians in the village some felt that a pavement along the main road would be advantageous.

Some remarked that cars and buses should not be parked on the pavements and that the Church Path might be improved although it is listed.

The majority of people are happy that the public footpaths and cycleways are well marked and safe although some paths across fields are not always clear and young livestock can make walking difficult. Mention was also made of cycle parking/racks in the Baxter Hall car park. It was also suggested that the vision splays at the Tarka Trail crossing could be improved.

## The Present Position

Clearly the present bus service is under used and if improvements to the service are desired, residents will have to make greater use of the existing buses. There is a point to be made that maybe, if there was a better service more people would make use of it. At present there is a bus to Torrington on Thursdays and one on Fridays to Barnstaple via Torrington and Bideford. The Ring & Ride is the only service to Okehampton.

There are some concerns regarding the footpaths, roads and tracks, but generally they are adequately signed and maintained. The Parish Council has been in contact with Devon County Council regarding problems with potholes.

## Aims

- To increase the use of the bus and Ring & Ride in order to ensure continued service in the future.
- To address the problems raised in the survey regarding footpaths and cycling facilities.

## Actions

- To approach bus companies and discover any improvements that could be made to the existing services.
- To contact the Baxter Hall Committee to discuss the viability of some sort of cycle parking facility.
- To establish where signs are missing or appropriate and contact the relevant Council to replace or install them.
- To look into the extent of the demand for a pavement through the village.

## **Transport - Traffic**

Respondents were pretty evenly balanced regarding road safety in the Parish with 59% expressing satisfaction and 41% dissatisfied.

The largest number of comments were for Slow Down signs followed by a desire for pavements, traffic calming, banning all heavy traffic and the cutting back of the hedge outside May Cottage.

Regarding school journeys most people who responded felt that it was important to reduce the car journeys to school, improve safety for school journeys and have better bus facilities for school travel. Some felt that there were too many children standing at the crossroads waiting for the bus.

Concern about speed within the village was also pretty evenly balanced with 31% very concerned, 33% were quite concerned, 23% not very concerned and 14% not concerned at all.

Particular areas highlighted were North Town Hill, the main road through the village and Brandise Hill. There were 58% who had concerns with large vehicles within the Village and 42% had none.

There were many suggestions as to how to tackle traffic problems, some of them unprintable! The most popular solutions were:-

- Except for local deliveries all lorries should be routed along the A386
- Traffic calming or speed bumps through the village
- Police speed cameras and/or random police speed checks
- 20 mph speed limit

The Clay lorries had many comments, the most popular being a one way system for them but other suggestions were:-

- Direct access to the main road
- Restricting them to certain days
- Clay works being responsible for verge maintenance
- Some sort of calming measure by the Tarka Trail

## **The Present Position**

There always have been concerns about the Clay Lorries. Recently the Parish Council has been looking into the possibility of getting the Give Way sign at the Tarka Trail junction changed to a Stop! Sign. The lorries are often taking clay to the boats at Bideford so tying them to certain days is not viable. There was another road exit built from the clay quarry but its use was blocked by a local landowner



## **Aims**

- To address concerns of the Parishioners regarding speed and heavy vehicles through the village
- To lessen the impact of the clay Lorries on Parishioners.

## **Actions**

- Investigate the possibility of electronic speed restriction signs and request that the police do the occasional spot checks. Check viability of "except for access" lorry signs into and out of the village approaches.
- Contact the Clay Company to see if they can do any more to lessen the impact of their lorries, such as implementing a one way system.
- Contact Highways regarding contributions from the Clay Company for verge restoration.

## **Environment**

### **Present Position**

A great amount of positive information was obtained from this section, which was answered by most people.

The Parish was questioned on the importance of surveys on various subjects including habitat / wildlife, trees, visitor and drainage. They were not considered by the majority – 59% to 41%, as vital or important, although some felt that a traffic survey might be useful and 17% considered a drainage survey vital.

### **Aims**

To take into account the concerns of the Parishioners relating to drainage and traffic in particular.

### **Action:**

Consult with Parish Council to establish if there is a mechanism for carrying out surveys of wildlife, trees and drains. A traffic survey would also be useful.

Asked what would be considered to be the most important in preserving and/ or improving the visual character of the Parish showed that the protection and management of trees and hedges 75% to 25% as very important and that the provision of dog fouling bins 61% to 40% was more important than planning enforcement and controls 50% to 51%. The importance of the provision and siting of litter bins was almost equally split 48% to 52%.

The percentages use the ranking of 1 and 2 for the first figure and 3 to 5 for the last. This does not necessarily mean that those who entered 3 to 5 were against, only that they did not consider the item of great importance.

By far the biggest response was in regard to the bad state of repair of the roads and damage to the verges. 75 people made additional comments with regard to this.

### **Aims**

To improve the roadways accessing the village and maintain the hedgerows and verges on these roads.

### **Action:**

To request the Parish Council to investigate the provision of litter and dog fouling bins (and emptying thereof) and ask the Council to urge that something be done to improve the condition of the surrounding roads and verges being torn up by the HGVs.

Aspects of the importance of conservation to our local environment also attracted a high response.

All sections listed apart from Archaeology gave overwhelming support to their importance. The Landscape 77% to 23%, Countryside 87% to 13%, Sustainable Farming 83% to 16%, Wildlife 78% to 22% and Energy and buildings 69% to 31%.

### **Aims**

It is clear that everyone felt that our environment was very important and should be protected and any future development within the Parish should take this into account.

### **Action:**

Ensure that the Council is made aware that our environment is very important to us and that any proposed changes are not carried out without full consultation with our Parish Council and people of the Parish.





### **Improvements to the Tarka Trail.**

- The response included more Seating – (13 people),
- Doggie Bins –(12 people),
- Improved parking – (8 people),
- Provide an additional route to Hatherleigh – (7 people)
- Better drainage – (6 people).
- Toilets and allowance for Horses – (4 people).
- The return to a railway suggested by 6 is, we think, a non runner.

#### **Aims**

Investigate if there could be more seating provided along the Trail and again the provision of Dog fouling Bins. The subject of the Route to Hatherleigh, Better Drainage and Improved Parking will also be investigated with the Council although environmental issues should be considered as the Tarka trail borders areas of culm grassland which are now managed by the Devon Wildlife Trust.

#### **Action**

To improve this amenity area for walkers and cyclists and liaise with the authorities on the best way forward.

The open areas you would like to see protected saw a small response and the suggestions were the remaining fields, the Recreation Ground and the Village.

#### **Aims**

To maintain as far as possible all amenity and open areas as it is assumed from the small response that the Parish is generally happy with these aspects.

#### **Action:**

These areas are subject to the planning laws and the District Council will bear these points in mind if any applications are made which affect these areas.

Environment issues of concern include the bright Street Lighting – 8, Overdevelopment meaning more traffic – 6 and no more building – 2.

#### **Aims**

To reduce street lighting to an acceptable level without compromising security issues and take into account traffic movement and parking when considering future development.

#### **Action:**

The street lighting has been a subject discussed at the Parish Council and action is being taken. Overdevelopment and building is a planning issue which is dealt with by District Council.



## Employment and Tourism

### The Survey

Are you at present?	Actual Responses	% Result
Employed full time	50	21
Employed part time	32	14
Self employed	45	19
Unemployed	0	0
In a Government training scheme	1	0
In fulltime education	12	5
Wholly retired	71	30
Unwaged wife/husband/partner	18	8
Permanently sick/disabled	7	3
Other: Gap Year Student	1	0
<b>Total responders to this question</b>	<b>237</b>	

50% of responders felt that there should be light industrial units provided within the Parish so that small businesses can service the community and provide local employment opportunities.

The biggest barrier to economic growth within the Parish was felt to be poor transport and communication links, 60%, i.e. lack of public transport and poor broadband service and a lack of premises, 28%.

When it came to trying to attract tourists to the Parish, only 37% of people felt this was of importance but 29% had no opinion on this. However, 35% felt that visitors to the Parish should be charged a visitors tax, with the majority (43%) not feeling this necessary.

Of those who wished to see tourism encouraged, the number of responders in favour of the ideas contained within the Questionnaire, are set out in order of preference:

- Tarka Trail Visitor Centre 61
- Working eco farm 45
- Parish Visitor Centre 28
- Camping sites 28
- Camping barns/youth hostel 25
- Sites for touring caravans 12
- Sites for permanent holiday caravans 10

### Present Position

30% of respondents within the Parish are retired, with 54% in employment of some kind. The remainder being made up of unwaged partners and sick and disables.

Fortunately, there is no one who is unemployed.

There is a lack of employment opportunities within the Parish.

The main places which currently attract tourists, are as follows:



- Access to the Tarka Trail
- The Laurels public house
- Events at the Baxter Hall
- B&B and self catering accommodation
- Riding stables
- Open farm events

### Aims

- To use the data contained in the Parish Plan to look at and plan possible employment and tourism opportunities within the Parish.
- To find ways to break down the barriers which hinder economic growth within the community.

### Actions

- Parish Council to identify possible sites for light industrial units and investigate land ownership, planning restrictions, access issues, etc. for various sites.
- Provision of local job information/opportunities on Parish notice boards and advise local employers of this facility.
- Seek grant and other opportunities for the small business sector, to help residents to start up small businesses.
- Parish Council to look at the possibility of a visitors centre. A Tarka Trail Centre and the Parish information centre could be housed in one location.

## Community Services- Refuse Collection and Recycling.

### The Survey.

90% of replies wanted a cardboard recycling collection. 27% of residents expressed an interest in a community composting facility.

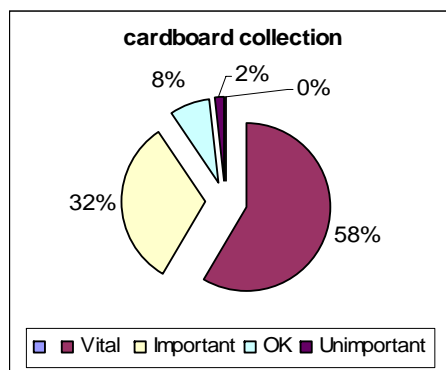
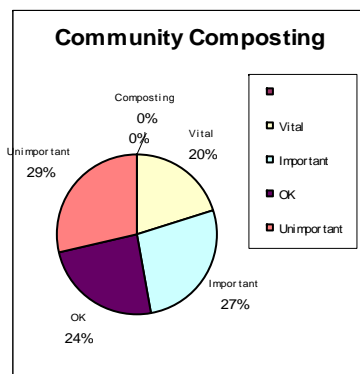
65% thought a bulk waste collection for cookers and electrical goods was important.

41% of people thought farm waste was unimportant.

### The Present Situation.

There is no cardboard collection at present but the Parish Council has been in contact with T.D.C. to try and get this service for the Village.

Community Composting. At present there is no scheme. Most people compost their own waste or take it to the local Tip. There could be scope within the Parish to run one.



Bulk waste is collected by T.D.C for a fee and can also be taken to the Deep Moor recycling centre at Torrington or Holsworthy recycling centre.

Farm waste is already regulated by D.E.F.R.A.

### Aims.

- The Parish Council to work with T.D.C. for a cardboard collection.
- The Parish Council to look into the possibility of a village composting scheme.

### Action.

- The Parish Council will consider support for the above aims.

## Community Services-Parish News.

99% of replies were happy with the Parish Newsletter but 1% were not.

### Present Position

There is a very informative monthly newsletter. A village web site, [www.petrockstowe.co.uk](http://www.petrockstowe.co.uk) and the Church provides Welcome packs for new people moving into the Village full of local information such as community activities, nearest Doctors Surgeries and schools.

### Aims.

- To continue with the above and also find why 1% were not satisfied.



## **Standard of Maintenance.**

### **The Survey.**

80% thought the current standard of maintenance in public areas is reasonable and the play area good.

The condition of the old school site (village hall) was also mentioned. By far the largest concern was poor highway maintenance and roadside care.

### **Present Position**

Many roads are in a poor state of repair with potholes, rough surfaces and subsidence along some of the road edges.

On the whole public areas were thought good apart from the hall car park. In some parts of the Village there has been a problem with dog fouling from time to time.

### **Aims.**

- The Parish Council will continue to press D.C.C. to improve road maintenance. The Village Hall Committee to apply for funding for a new car park.
- For dogs to educate their owners on this anti-social problem.

### **Actions.**

- The Parish Council to press D.C.C. to maintain local roads at a much higher level and more quickly.
- Through the Newsletter to bring dog fouling to the attention of the dog owning public of Petrockstowe.
- The Hall Committee to apply for funding to make a new car park on the old school site.

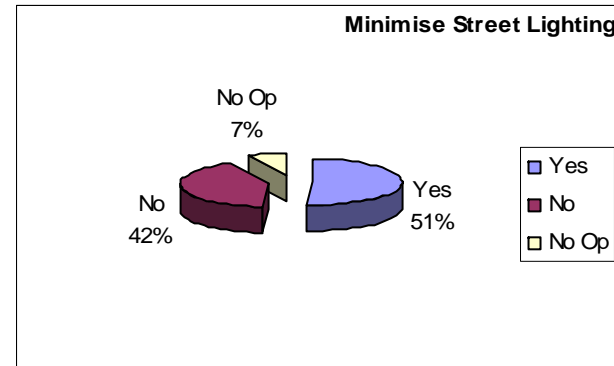
## **Street Lighting.**

42% of replies were satisfied with street lighting whilst 51% wanted to minimise street lighting.

10% felt for security it could be improved around the Village Hall, North Town/ Springfield and North Town Cross towards Berry Farm for residents in the bungalows.

### **Present Position**

Whilst most residents are happy with the lighting in the Village some felt reducing it would be beneficial.



### **Aims.**

- To improve the environmental effects of the street lighting and cut down on electricity.

### **Action.**

- A joint meeting with residents, the Parish Council and D.C.C. was held and it was proposed to reduce the wattage of the bulbs and have white lights with a more concentrated beam.
- To consult with residents when necessary.

## **Communication.**

### **Present Position**

82% of residents have a mobile phone, 24% have access to the internet, 49% to broadband and 24% have satellite T.V.

Connection to broadband can be difficult due to the distance from the exchange.

### **Aims.**

- To arrange a meeting with B.T. and discuss the difficulties in receiving broadband.

### **Action.**

- The Parish Council to press B.T. to improve the local exchange at Hatherleigh.

### **Standards of Service.**

You were asked about the standard of services in the community. The emergency services were thought good as was electricity, mains water, refuse collection, the mobile library and street cleaning.

25% of residents thought the police were poor but 50% were satisfied.

Grass cutting/verges was reasonable but 76% of replies thought highway maintenance was poor and 40% thought gritting was poor.

### **Present Position**

There is no doubt that Highway Maintenance is the main concern of residents. The other services were satisfactory except for the low visual presence of the police although community support officers do come to the village coffee mornings. The mobile library comes once a fortnight and the lengthsman twice a year to clear drains and gutters.

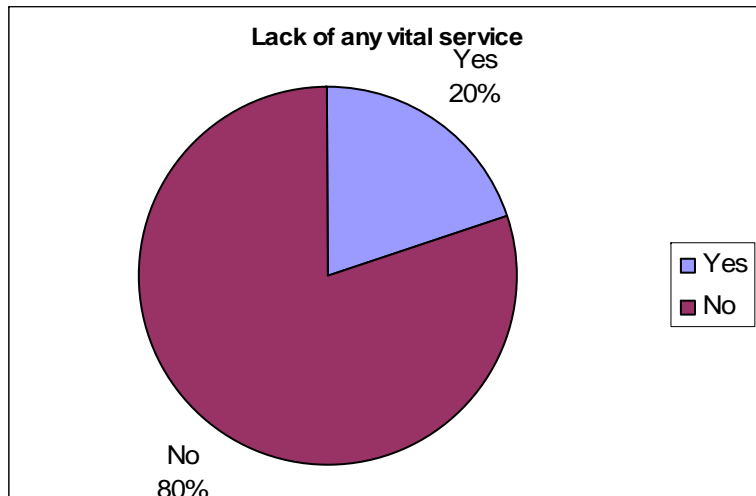
### **Aims.**

- To improve the condition of the roads.

### **Actions.**

- Through the Parish Council to put pressure on the Highways Authority to improve the state of the roads.

### **Lack of Services.**



### **The Survey.**

Four out of five replies were satisfied with the services provided except for the roads.

- Broadband connection and public transport were a concern.
- There was a suggestion of a village shop.
- Recycling could also be improved with a cardboard collection and composting.

### **Present Position**

Because of our rural situation we lack some of the services which are provided in more urban areas.

### **Aims.**

- To work to improve areas that residents find unsatisfactory.

### **Actions.**

Through the Parish Council to work with D.C.C. and T.D.C. to improve the areas that residents are dissatisfied with and to continue to respond to issues as they arise.



## Leisure

You were asked if there were any Clubs or Societies which you felt would benefit the Community other than those already up and running. There were a range of suggestions and the three which had the most support were:

1. Setting up a Youth Club
2. A Village Shop
3. A Skittle Alley

### Present Position

There is no obvious site for a shop in the village and unless run as a Community Village Shop manned by volunteers, this would really be a free enterprise. There are two thriving skittle groups in the village which play on a temporary alley in the Baxter Hall. There seems to be general satisfaction with the way events in the area are publicised. There are a very wide range of groups, societies and clubs catered for in the Baxter Hall, on the Recreation Ground and the play area, as well as regular coffee mornings, a film season and live music and theatre also held in the Baxter Hall.

### Aims

- To look into the feasibility of a village shop run by volunteers and research the demand for one
- To seek professional help regarding the setting up of a Youth Club
- To look into provision for a permanent skittle alley attached to the Baxter Hall

### Actions

- To Contact T.D.C. regarding training for Youth Club Leader and look for volunteers to assist in the running
- To approach Community Council of Devon for advice and seek residents interested in starting a village shop
- To liaise with the Baxter Hall committee to source grants and planning for a permanent skittle alley

## Leisure - amenities and services

You were asked how far you have to travel for the following services and amenities

**Swimming:** This is not catered for in the Parish and the largest majority have to travel approximately 10 miles for swimming

**Bowling:** There are already 2 teams who play skittles but there is no bowling green in the Village. Most of the bowlers who do not play in the Village journey around 5 miles to play, although a significant number travel over 20 miles.

**Football:** Most travel approximately 5 miles to play or watch football but there are some who travel over 20 miles and some who are catered for in the Parish.

**Shopping:** There is no shop in the village so everyone has to travel outside the Parish for their shopping. There was quite a disparity in the distances travelled. 25% journeying 5-10 miles, 25% 10 - 15 miles and 21% 15 - 20 miles. Some 14% of those who responded travelled in excess of 20 miles.

**Social:** Most people it seems socialise within the Parish with others travelling 5-15 miles.

**Bank:** We have no bank in the Parish therefore everyone has to travel to Torrington, Hatherleigh or Okehampton to their nearest bank which is reflected in the figures. 42% travel 5-10 miles, 25% 10-15 miles and 17% up to 5 miles.

**Supermarket:** A large majority of the respondents, some 40%, travel 10 to 15 miles for a supermarket. 21% 5-10 miles, 19% go 15 to 20 miles and 11% over 20 miles.

**Farmers Markets:** 31% of respondents go up to 5 miles for the nearest farmers market and 25% around 10 miles.



## Health and Wellbeing

### The Survey

What are your main concerns about crime and safety?	Actual Responses	% Result
Have no concerns	62	25
Burglary	100	40
Vandalism	40	16
Anti-social behaviour	29	12
Personal safety	31	12
Noisy neighbours	12	5
Speeding traffic	114	45
Lack of police presence	63	25
Other:	0	0
<b>Total responses to this question</b>	<b>451</b>	

The greatest concerns relating to crime and safety were speeding traffic and burglaries. Another main issue was the lack of police presence.

Specific comments relating to particular issues concerning living in a rural area are set out below:

- Council Tax is out of proportion for services provided
- There is a lack of police presence when needed
- Lack of regular public transport
- Lack of local shop/Post Office
- There has been too much development
- Home delivery from supermarkets is non-existent
- Broadband services are very poor
- The state of the local roads is poor
- There were some concerns regarding drink driving

Respondents were asked to comment on what youth facility provisions they would most like to see in the Parish. Comments are set out below:

- Youth club
- Table tennis
- Badminton
- Football pitch
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Tennis courts
- Dance club

Are the Parish churches/places of worship important to you and, if so, why?	Actual Responses	% Result
For worship	105	42
For baptisms, weddings and funerals	137	55
As historic buildings	140	56
As tourist attractions	43	17
As landmarks	97	39
Other:	0	0
<b>Total responses to this question</b>	<b>522</b>	

Most people said that the places of worship within the Parish were important to them as an historic building rather than as a place of worship, although 42% said that they were important for worship and 55% of people thought they were important for baptisms, weddings and funerals. One person thought that they were good as a place for peaceful sanctuary.

4 responses mentioned that there is nowhere within the Parish for Roman Catholic worship.



19 people thought that improvements should be made to the paths leading to the church and 12 mentioned that they would like a permanent vicar. Other concerns raised were that some of the old memorials could be unsafe and that the entrance gates to the church and graveyard needed repainting.

5 people thought the boundary wall to the Methodist Chapel needed to be replaced and 17 thought it was in need of maintenance. 5 people suggested that attendees of the chapel should park in the car park next to the chapel rather than on the roadside. There was also a suggestion, by 6 people, that the land around the chapel could be put to greater use during the summer, e.g. silver bands, musical events, etc.

Do you have difficulty in accessing any of the following services?	Actual Responses	% Result
Chemist	16	6
Job Centre	4	2
Chiropodist	8	3
Counselling service	0	0
Doctor	19	8
Family planning service	1	1
Hospital	18	7
Local health visitor	5	2
Mental health service	1	1
NHS Dentist	41	16
Private dentist	1	1
Optician	15	6
Other medical	0	0
<b>Total responses to this question</b>	<b>129</b>	

16% of respondents stated that they had difficulty in accessing an NHS Dentist, with the next difficult being access to a doctor, closely followed by access to a hospital, chemist and an optician.

2 people stated they have difficulty concerning getting home help.

People were asked if they could offer help to voluntary groups within the Parish and these kind offers were as below:

- Conservation group 19
- Environment group 18
- Patient transport 6
- Citizens advice 3
- Parish projects 3
- WRVS luncheon club 2
- Animal rights group 1
- Farm visit talks 1

Other schemes that people thought would benefit the Parish were:

- a shared car scheme, which was suggested by 25 respondents
- gardening
- DIY help for the elderly and a prescription collection.

### **Improvements to local facilities**

Improvements suggested for the Baxter Hall, were as follows:

- Improve parking area 39
- Skittle alley 29
- Redecorate and facelift 8
- Provision of office 4
- Improvements to kitchen floor 4
- Mood lighting 4
- Heating 3
- Provision of a dishwasher 1
- Licensed bar 1
- Lighting to car park 1
- Installation of photocopier 1
- Improved storage 1

Improvements suggested for the Recreation Field, were as follows:

- Proper toilets 15
- Dog foul bin 8
- Completion of pavilion 7
- Club house 7
- More seating 4
- Provision of a footpath from the village 1
- Self closing gate 1
- New entrance opposite Crop Mech stores 1
- Better drainage 1
- Swings, slide, etc. 1
- Football pitch 1

Improvements suggested for the play area, were as follows:

- Update of the equipment 9
- Better ground cover 7
- Seats, benches and picnic area 6
- Soft matting rather than bark 5

### **Present Position**

Overall, Petrockstowe is relatively crime free and also a safe place to reside. However, speeding traffic is a concern and so is the lack of police presence and the poor state of the local roads.

There are particular issues relating to living in a rural community, such as lack of public transport and the lack of a local shop/post office.

Other than Kingdom Kids, run by the local churches, there is no youth club or other youth provision within the Parish.

The main places for worship within the Parish are the Church of England Parish church of St Petroc and the Methodist Chapel, with there being no other places of worship for other denominations or faith types. St Petroc's church is currently without a full time clergy and the rectory is unoccupied.

There are no health professionals operating within the Parish.

The Baxter Hall is well used by the village community and other than day to day maintenance and cosmetic updates, requires additional facilities such as an office, for the running of the hall, a skittle alley, to provide a dedicated space for the very active skittle teams and improvements to the parking area outside for the safe movement of foot and wheeled traffic.

The recreation field is currently used for the village cricket matches and other community events, the new pavilion is in need of completion together with providing proper toilet facilities.

The play area is also well used and liked by the village children.

### **Aims**

- A safe and crime free environment for all local residents.
- Places of worship protected for the use and enjoyment of residents
- Reduce speeding traffic through the Parish
- To improve access to a wide range of health facilities, particularly doctor, chemist, dentist and optician.
- Provide youngsters somewhere to go in the evening, to talk, play or just a place to have coffee or tea with mates
- Provision of well equipped and adequately maintained play and recreational areas

### **Actions**

- Seek more police presence within the community
- Greater use of the neighbourhood watch initiative

- Protection of local places of worship, i.e. ensure these buildings continue to be treated with respect and remain well maintained
- Find workable speed reducing initiatives
- Make sure Baxter Hall remains a well maintained and useful part of the community. As the main area for socialising, provide the necessary facilities required, i.e. office, skittle alley and improve the car park.
- Explore possibilities for regular health provision within the Parish, i.e. holding regular surgeries.
- Research the feasibility of mobile health services, utilising the Baxter Hall, and prescription delivery options.
- Look at the feasibility of a youth club and identify volunteers, funding, speak with other Parish groups that have worked on similar projects etc. and where possible incorporate other youth activities identified in the Parish plan
- Look at ways of providing proper toilet facilities and the pavilion on the recreation ground is completed
- Endeavour to contact the significant amount of people who stated that they would be willing to help with various voluntary groups. This suggests that there may be an important untapped resource in the Parish, which could be of value in achieving some of the overall objectives of the Parish plan.



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