

## STOKENHAM PARISH PLAN ANALYSIS AND CATEGORISATION OF COMPILED RESULTS FROM COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

### Introduction

The questionnaire comprising 60 main questions arising from eight months of consultation, was hand delivered to over 1,100 places of residence in the parish of Stokenham. The majority of the completed forms (673) were hand collected some two to three weeks later a **61% return** representing the views of **1,428 parishioners** over the age of 11.

The following is simply the analysis and categorisation of the results and where appropriate factual interpretative conclusions. No positive attempt has been made to comment or recommend action at this stage.

**Highlighted text** refers to additional information to be found on individual questionnaires. **Bold texts** are key words relating to issues and themes and may be helpful when drawing up the action plan and prioritising projects.

### Households and Housing.

Of the households completing the form, 177 or 26.5% contained only one person, 336 or 50.2% two persons and 154 three persons or more.

The age distribution and the location of the households of those completing the form are shown below.

Village	Households
Chillington	322
Stokenham	152
Torcross	70
Rural Area	62
Hallsands	24
Beesands	21
Beeson	20

Age	Male	Female
<b>0 to 4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5 to 10</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>11 to 16</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>17 to 21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 to 39</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>40 to 59</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>216</b>
<b>60 to 64</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>65 to 74</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>75 Plus</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>67</b>

Source of both tables Stokenham Parish Plan Questionnaire 2003

Of 611 homes 59 were declared as second and / or holiday homes and from the forms returned some 66 households had moved in the last 5 years.

673 households declared a total of 8 housebound, 31 infirm and 58 registered disabled. Also that 24 persons had responsibility for caring for someone outside the home and 47 for some one at home.

103 households stated a **need for alternative accommodation** now or within the next 10 years with an immediate need by 21, 33 within 3years and 61 in 3 to 10 years.

The predominant need is for starter homes to buy, 50. Starter homes to rent, 28 and family homes to buy 19. An interest in self-build projects was expressed by 16 households, family homes to rent by 10, sheltered housing 13, residential care 12 and 8 part rental / part buy.

The biggest stated reason for need was price, 47 aggravated by lack of suitable stock to buy or homes available from local authority 38.

66 members of the households submitting a return have left the parish during the last 5 years.

Respondents who indicated a need for accommodation were invited to fill in a confidential supplementary form from Devon County Council a report on which will be published separately.

**It is worth noting that in answer to the first question of the personal section of the questionnaire 865 people out of 1,064, 70% would be prepared to see additional housing development in the parish to provide affordable housing for young people.**

### **Conclusions**

- Assuming that those that completed the questionnaire are typical of the rest of the parish nearly 32% are over the age of 60.
- 38% reside in the semi-urban areas of Chillington, Stokenham and Torcross, 5% scattered over the rural area, 20.1 sq km, and the remainder almost equally in Hallsands, Besands and Beeson.
- There are clear indications of the need for additional affordable residential accommodation, either rented, to buy, shared equity or self build.

### **Transport**

It is not surprising that for a parish covering such a large rural area, transport issues are a daily concern. Although recorded serious accidents are not high the parish lives with a high incidence of minor bumps and scrapes many of which are aggravated by excessive speeding on the one hand and the frustration of hold ups on the other.

In answer to the question do you think there is a problem with **speed in the parish?** 52% (636) replied yes on the roads but only 23% on the water close to the beaches etc.

Having experienced some six months of various speed restrictions through adjacent parishes 67% of respondents indicated a preference for just 30 mph through the villages on the A379 and 52% for 40 mph elsewhere on the A379. Through other settlements in the parish 70% also preferred 30 mph.

Throughout the consultation period prior to formulation of the questionnaire the saving of the **A379 along Slapton Sands**, “the line” was a prominent issue. Thus a return of **88% requesting retention** was not unexpected.

842 representing 68% felt that the network of footpaths and other routes for walking and riding in the parish were generally suitable. While a **minority of 16%** felt there was some room for improvement and/or a need for additional path/s.

Few people have to rely on **public transport** on a daily basis only some 3% or even weekly 4% but the percentage rises steeply to 42% who have reliance on an occasional basis. Even on the assumption that there existed a frequent and reliable bus service these percentages do not alter significantly, daily 4%, weekly 12%, occasionally 57%. However given a reliable and frequent bus service, Kingsbridge would be the most used destination, 53% followed by Dartmouth 20%, Plymouth 13% and Totnes 4%.

The inability to get to social/leisure activities due to lack of public transport does not appear to be a major problem affecting only 12%.

Legislation in recent years has changed to allow **larger/heavier road vehicles**. 806 respondents 67% felt that there was a problem with **large vehicles in the parish**.

**Parking and parking charges** continue to be a contentious subject both within and beyond the parish. 460 felt that there was a problem of parking in **their village**, 349 elsewhere in the parish and 710 in their most used town. To the question should residents receive parking concessions? Over 83% replied in the affirmative. Finally on parking, 77% felt that high car parking charges affected local business.

## Conclusions

- Although the returns do not present transport as a major problem in the parish the underlying theme tends to indicate that with the growth in the ownership of private transport and the demise of public transport the majority of the parish have adapted their life style accordingly. A deeper investigation may reveal that in some cases the enforced lifestyle is not necessarily a preferred one. Time and money spent fetching and carrying from location to location when no alternative exists may often be something ill afforded. On the other hand transport difficulties out of the parish may be one of the reasons for the success of in parish socialising, clubs, societies etc.
- “Vehicle speed” concern by minority groups is obviously a very contentious issue and has almost certainly been aggravated by the imposition of 40 and 20 mph limits in adjacent parishes. However the feelings of the majority are quite clearly revealed viz, 30mph in villages and 40mph elsewhere.
- Retention of the A379 along Slapton Sands, Torcross to Strete Gate, important issue.
- General satisfaction with footpaths etc. may be an indication of little use by many and the need perhaps to widen their appeal.
- Large vehicles are obviously a matter of concern by many and the figures would suggest a need for further analysis.
- No doubt car parking continues to be a problem for many and requires resolution.

## Environment

Surveys and Guides – Surveys of habitat/wildlife and traffic were considered to be important, as were design guides for new development and alterations to buildings. However no opinion was expressed for the subjects, renewable energy source, visitor survey, noise survey and drainage survey. These results were the predominant answers given. Considerable interest was shown by the answers to the visual character of the parish questions The highest concern was for the protection/management of trees/hedges 741 closely followed by greater control of fly-tipping, 714. Undergrounding of overhead cables and the provision and siting of litter bins attracted 582 votes each. More enforcement of planning controls received 411 votes and listed status for more buildings just 160. Peoples considered threats and suggestions included-

Regarding **services** in the parish the predominant views were: Ambulance, Fire, Water, Electricity, Refuse collection, Primary School, Pre-school and Medical Centre all were rated good. Medical Centre coming out top with 889 votes and refuse collection second with 834. Beach Safety, Roadside Care/ Street Cleaning, Highway Repair, Maintenance and gritting all rated reasonable. **Police** on balance came out poor and the majority vote for **Street Lighting** was no opinion.

**Conservation** matters of Landscape, Countryside, Sustainable Farming and Wildlife were all considered to be vital with Archaeology important.

## Conclusions

- There seems to be a strong natural sense of stewardship in and for the community and its environment.
- Strong loyalties are also demonstrated in the parish to locally provided services viz. Medical Centre, School and pre-school.

- Albeit only by a few votes the poor rating given to the police service almost certainly reflects their lack of approachable presence and the difficulty of being able to make contact for serious matters and concerns.

### **Jobs/Employment**

Should **light industrial units** be made available so that small businesses can service the local community and provide local jobs? 850 respondents 69% said yes. On the other hand only 176 (14%) thought they directly benefited financially from the tourism trade. As to the encouragement of more **tourism**, only 424 (36%) thought it should happen and 44%, 542 respondents thought there should be a green tourism tax. Responses to the question of more tourist development were unenthusiastic more bread & breakfast accommodation receiving the highest number of votes 243 (15%) The barriers to economic growth in the parish were seen to be, by far the most important, the uncertainty of the **A379 Torcross to Strete Gate**, 652 votes. Lack of suitable premises was considered to be the next most important with lack of communication and planning controls attracting 278 and 251 respectively. Business support and inadequate childcare were not considered to be particularly inhibiting collecting only 126 and 83. **There were 112 other reasons given.** When asked why people had to turn down employment opportunities, 37 were due to lack of transport, 16 lack of childcare, 12 cost of childcare, 24 family commitments and 23 other commitments. 50 persons hoped to become self-employed within the next 12 months. For these the following were some of the main factors that were felt could be restricting. Start up finance, lack of premises and lack of contacts.

### **Conclusions**

- It is difficult to accept that only 176 out of 1,170 feel they directly benefit from the tourism trade and a perception that tourism is not desperately important to the economic well being of the parish. There seems to be a certain amount of NIMBYism in relation to the encouragement of tourism.
- The uncertainty of the future of the A379 along the line is understandable and obviously has an impact on longer-term business decision making particularly in the vicinity of Torcross.
- The availability of suitable business premises is seen as the second most important barrier to economic growth in the parish.

### **Community Services/Access to Services**

It is interesting that 362 out of 1235 did not respond to the question on bulk waste (cookers etc.) collection, however 307 felt it was very important with a further 245 considering it vital. 415 demonstrated no interest in Community compost facilities while 463 thought it vital or important. Garden machinery for the community was of no interest or not considered important by 947. Glass, Plastic, Cardboard and Can collection for **recycling** was considered vital or important by over 50% in each case. Farm waste collection was not seen as important by over 66% but dual dustbin collection was seen as vital or important by 646 (52%).

Regarding **information services**, the Parish Magazine was seen to be the most effective means of being kept informed of parish news events and services receiving 698 votes out of 2,657 followed by Council Newsletter 588 votes, Parish notice boards 301 and Parish Website 293. General word of mouth received 261 votes, organised distribution network 184 and e-mail 157. **There were 58 others.**

Other public services were rated as follows: Beach cleaning, Public areas, and Public toilets were all considered reasonable but **Dog fouling** was considered poor and on Parks the majority expressed no opinion. **19 other items were recorded.** 26 persons expressed a requirement for **childcare** provision now, 24 within the next 3 years and 12 within 5 years. 17 of the 72 using childcare now obtained it within the parish.

1,099 out of 2,739 responses used their **local shop**, 889 local business and 751 local services.

708 out of 1235, over 57 %, expressed the importance of minimising street lighting to preserve the rural character of the parish. 228 persons felt that there were specific locations that the provision/improvement of lighting would make them safer/more secure. **Locations specified.**

The majority of respondents did not feel that there were too many **signs** within the parish. However a significant minority 34% did. 19.4% did not express an opinion. 915 out of 2,018 indicated possession of a mobile phone, 612 have a PC at home with access to the **internet**, (11 with broad band), 331 have satellite TV at home and 149 a PC at work with access to the internet. In answer to: would you like **broadband** access available in the parish 490 out of 1235 replied yes and 591 not relevant. 783 out of 1,235 (63%) enjoyed acceptable mobile phone reception where they lived. 459 respondents out of 1,235 indicated a willingness to pay more (£1 to £5 plus) council tax if it was guaranteed that it would be spent by the local council on local projects. **Figure includes other.**

## Conclusions

- It is interesting to note the gathering importance of the mobile phone, the PC and the Internet and the amount of interest in broadband.
- A fairly strong interest in the importance of recycling.
- Encouraging response to the “willingness to pay more question”.

## Leisure/Sport/Amenities/Services

From 1,368 votes, 422 felt the parish would benefit from a **youth club**, 335 adult education courses, 260 **local historical society** and 173 a theatre/dramatic society. A storytelling club attracted 71 votes and a **business forum** 55. **There were 52 other suggestions.**

Allocation of votes as to most frequent location for the listed activities:

\*\* = most frequent \* = second most frequent.

Activity	Parish	K'bridge	D'mouth	l'bridge	T'quay	Exeter	P'mouth
Swimming	*	**					
Bowling	*						**
Football	*	**					
Shopping	*	**					*
Socialising	**	*					
Banking	*	**					
Supermkt		**		*			
Farmers Mkt.	*	*					

Source Stokenham Parish Plan Questionnaire 2003

Of 551 parents who responded, 44 replied that their children could not participate in after school activities because of no public transport, 31 distance of school from home, 13 road safety hazards, 27 no suitable activities, 31 too expensive and 12 others. 393 felt the question was not applicable. **There were 12 other reasons.**

## Conclusions

- Significant interest in youth club.
- Under activity locations, bowling most likely included all forms including 10 pin. Banking most likely was taken to include on line and PO banking.

## Health & Well-being

Crime and Safety concerns elicited 3,148 responses. The highest concern being lack of **police presence** receiving 655 votes. Burglary attracted 636, Vandalism 597, Speeding traffic 525, Antisocial behaviour 430 and noisy neighbours 96. There were 36 other concerns and there may be other issues that relate to living in an isolated rural area.

11 to 21 year olds were asked what youth facility provision they would like to see in the parish.

The importance of the churches of the parish was expressed as follows: 2075 responded and 558 felt they were important as historic buildings, 521 as places for baptisms and weddings, 427 as places for worship, 349 as landmarks, 185 as tourist attractions and 35 other reasons for their importance.

From a 1235 response 395 indicated a wish to be buried in the parish, 387 did not. 710 persons answered the question relating to difficulty in obtaining various services. By far the most significant difficulty was recorded against NHS Dentist, 448 votes. Hospital 82 votes, Chemist 53, Local Social Services Office 21, Doctor 20. All the rest received less than 20. 16 Other were recorded.

160 offers of help were recorded as follows: Local Conservation Group 50, Parish Projects 44, SCOF Patient Transport 21, WRVS Luncheon Club 14, CAB 6, School assistance 6 and 16 other.

## Conclusions

- Approximately a third of those living in the parish would wish to be buried in the parish.

P.H.G.13/4/2004

---

## Notes