

Littledean Parish Plan 2005-2008



LITTLEDEAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Parish Plan Steering Committee

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THE PARISH PLAN PROCESS

The Parish Plan was developed through a number of key stages.

- A. A Forward Plan consultation stage with key groups. The Parish Council held consultation in 2002 with Local people, the Business Community and FODDC officials at meetings held at Littledean Community Centre set up with display boards centred on topics such as Housing & Planning, Industry and Sport & Leisure. The display boards were then displayed at a number of locations in the parish for public comment.
- B. A Parish Plan Steering Committee was set up in November 2003 comprising three parish councillors and ten representatives of organisations and the general public. The Committee made an application to The Countryside Agency for funding for the production of a Parish Plan. This funding was granted in June 2004.
- C. A pre-questionnaire exercise to determine topics for inclusion within the Parish Questionnaire was decided upon. Marker Boards were placed all over the parish and topics changed on a weekly basis. The response to each of the topics was noted prior to the introduction of a new topic.
- D. Based on the responses to the Marker Board topics, the Steering Committee produced three questionnaires. The first questionnaire was the main consultative document and was aimed at the general adult population of Littledean Parish. A second document was specially produced for the 11 to 17 year old section of the community and finally third questionnaire was produced to evaluate what were the Housing Needs in the Parish and what those "needs" required to be fulfilled.
- E. The Questionnaires were sent out by post to every household in the parish in March 2005 as part of the parish plan process. Separate youth questionnaires and housing need surveys were also distributed. Respondents were asked to return their completed questionnaires by the 1st of April 2005.
- F. The Questionnaires were returned by a combination of pre-paid envelopes in remote areas, doorstep collections and deposition at The Post Office.
- G. All of the returned questionnaires were taken to Gloucestershire Rural Community Council who undertook the analysis of the figures.
- H. Following receipt of the analysis, further meetings of the Steering Committee were held with advice from GRCC, to produce an Action Plan.
- I. This Parish Plan has been produced taking into account all inputs from the above procedures.

LITTLEDEAN HISTORY

Littledean, which once had a market and was a centre of ironworking and metal trades, lies 17 km. WSW. of Gloucester. As defined in 1878 the ancient parish, one of the smallest in rural Gloucestershire contained 495 acres and was very irregular in shape. It was bounded by the once extraparochial Forest of Dean on the north and by detached parts of Flaxley and Newland elsewhere, and on the south, beyond Dean hill, a peninsula of Littledean to the west of Newnham touched the Forest at Blaize Bailey. On Dean hill the parish included a small area which as late as 1863 had been a detached part of the Forest. Littledean's boundaries followed a straight ridgeway on Littledean hill to the west and ancient tracks in places elsewhere. The eastern boundary with part of Flaxley took in Littledean Camp, a small earthwork probably of the late 11th century or early 12th, which has been identified as 'the old castle of Dean' recorded in the mid 12th century. The Dean Heritage Museum acquired the earthwork in 1987. The name Littledean, used in its Latin form Dean Parva in 1221, distinguished it from nearby Mitcheldean (Dean Magna), with which it presumably had a tenurial connection in 1086. Littledean, which remained a member of Mitcheldean in 1316, had a church by the later 12th century.

In 1883 Littledean absorbed the parts of Flaxley and Newland, together with a small-detached piece of Westbury-on-Severn, to the east. In 1953, on the dismemberment of East Dean civil parish, it took in part of the Forest to the north, including Pope's Hill, Shapridge, and Edge Hills, to more than double its area to 1,568 acres. (634.5 ha.). The following account covers the parish as it existed before 1883 and the former extraparochial land on Dean hill.

The parish lies at the heads of valleys, which drain to the north, northeast, and south. It takes in the surrounding hillsides rising to over 240 m. on Littledean hill and, less steeply, to over 185 m. in the east and southeast. Only in the northeast does the land fall below the 120-m. contour. Littledean was included within the ancient boundaries of the Forest of Dean but woodland was cleared early and only 7 acres survived in 1839. The Old Red Sandstone forms the land save in the west where it is overlaid by strata of carboniferous limestone and sandstone containing deposits of haematite ore. The limestone and the ore, which outcrops in a thin band running NE-SW. just below the ridge, have been quarried and mined and many rudimentary ironworks in the Middle Ages used the ore. Throughout the parish, particularly at Callamore on the west side and on Dean hill, were areas of waste ground, parts of which were used for dumping slag or cinders from those ironworks. Agriculture was predominantly pastoral and was carried on in small closes. In the 1580s Thomas Brayne created a deer park west of Littledean village but it has not been found recorded in use after the early 17th century.

Littledean stood at the centre of a network of tracks. They included roads said to have been used by the Romans linking Gloucester with the Forest of Dean, and Newnham and Lydney with Ariconium, near Weston under Penyard. The route from Newnham used in 1255 by travellers to Monmouth and in the later 15th century by travellers to Hereford, entered the parish on Dean hill and curved north, descending through the village and past the church towards Mitcheldean. The section running along the west side of Chestnuts hill was described c. 1282 as a high road (summum iter) and survived as a green way in the mid 18th century, when it was no longer the main route between Littledean and Mitcheldean. A route to the Forest ran northwest from the village centre along Broad Street before forking for Callamore and St. White's. The route to St. White's formed a junction at Pennywell with a track running west from the Newnham road at Dean Hall but in the later 18th century traffic from Newnham to St. White's and Coleford took the longer and slightly less steep route through the village and Callamore where the road to the Forest divided. The road running northwest through Callamore is called the Ruffitt and that running southwest from Callamore Reddings Lane, a name recorded in 1674. The route from Lydney, by way of Soudley, originally crossed Broad Street to follow an ancient way turning east to the church and a market place. That way was stopped in the mid 17th century and, further west, George Lane, branching northwards from Broad Street, was the principal road between Littledean and Mitcheldean by the mid 18th century.

The Littledean-Gloucester road, branching east from the old Mitcheldean road, follows the valley down to Elton and apparently once took a more northerly course, known in 1565 as Washbrook Lane, along the south side of Chestnuts hill. From 1769 to 1880 it was a turnpike beginning in the centre of the

village. The village's other streets and the road through Callamore to St. White's were turnpiked in 1783 as part of the main route between Newnham and the Forest of Dean. A tollgate was erected on Dean hill and in 1819 the road was diverted from the east side to the west side of Dean Hall at the expense of the house's owner, Joseph Pyrke. In the late 1820s, when the trust administering that route lapsed, the more direct route between Littledean and St. White's was replaced by a new road running higher up the hillside from the bottom of the Ruffitt. The new road, built by the Forest turnpike trust, turned north-westwards for Nailbridge at the point, east of St. White's, where it rejoined the old route and in the 1870s there was a tollgate just below the junction. The Forest turnpike trustees had responsibility for George Lane from 1796 until their powers were abolished in 1888.

Littledean village grew up on the old Newnham-Mitcheldean road. The church, dating from the later 12th century, stands at the Northeast end and just beyond it was a large pond, which was filled in c. 1850. The village was possibly represented in 1282 by a dozen cottages, seven of them relatively new, on 2½ acres of land held under Henry of Dean and in 1542 it may have contained the building called the church house. The junction of Broad Street, some way south of the church, took the name the Cross from a high cross erected there by 1458. It served as a market cross by 1573, having a low wooden penthouse built against it to shelter traders and was removed in 1821 to improve the road junction. The top of the shaft, which had carvings of small figures in niches below a finial, was placed in the grounds of the Grange, just outside the village, before being moved in the 1890s to a garden in Newnham. By 1976 part of the shaft was in the garden of Littledean House Hotel. The village extends along the three roads leading from the Cross. Many of the houses were rebuilt in the local sandstone in the 18th and 19th centuries but several earlier ones survive. The house east of the Cross has an early 18th-century street front with a pediment. To the north in Church Street is a house with a timber frame and a jettied upper floor, which may date from the 15th century and to the south in Silver Street, so called in 1715, is a 17th-century cottage. The south side of Broad Street contains a 17th-century gabled house and, further west at the corner of the Soudley road; the former White Lion inn dates from the 17th century and was altered in the early 19th. Court Farm, much further along the street, was the site of a medieval house. Frogmore, near the church, is an early 18th-century painted brick house of five bays. In the 1980s it was the home of members of the Colchester-Wemyss family, which had once owned Littledean manor and a large estate nearby. At the Cross, on the south side of Broad Street, is a house built in 1764 by William Howell, a coal miner. Further along the north side of the street, on the site of a house, which had belonged to Ketford Brayne (d. 1705), is a house bearing the date 1812 and the initials of Richard Smith and his wife Ann. Among other buildings put up in the 19th century were a rectory house, a chapel, and a manse in Broad Street and a school in Church Street. After the Second World War the village's appearance was altered by the removal of some old cottages and by the building of council houses and private dwellings in small estates off the principal streets.

The north-west end of the village centred on Nightingale's Cross, so called by 1591, where the road forked for Callamore and St. White's; a great elm standing there was a prominent landmark in the 18th century. That part of the village presumably included the dwelling said in 1436 to be in Nightingale Street. The architectural history of Brayne Court (formerly the Red House), standing at the entrance to the Ruffitt, has been obscured by an extensive restoration of the 1920s when additions were made to the building and early fittings were introduced. A 16th-century block, now the stair-hall, may have been a parlour and solar to a hall to the east. The hall was remodelled in the early 17th century when it probably had a screens passage across the east end and service rooms, largely demolished by the late 18th century, beyond that. A cross wing at the west end of the house probably dates from the early 17th century and provided additional parlour accommodation. Known as the Upper House, it was the residence in 1694 of Anne Brayne and in 1716 of her son John. There was some refitting c. 1700 and again in the early 19th century. Soon afterwards, presumably in 1855 when the house was converted as three cottages, a carved overmantel with the arms of the Brayne family was removed. To the southeast Littledean House Hotel, which opened as a boarding house in 1906, occupies a number of former houses and outbuildings. The main block, originally a two-storeyed house, was extended

westwards and heightened by a storey in the early 19th century. Joseph Bennett, a maltster and grocer, who resided there in 1838 and is said to have moved the overmantel from Brayne Court to the house, possibly undertook that work. To the west a two-storeyed range of the 19th century once contained service rooms and stables and coach houses. To the east a low early 19th-century wing joins the main block to a cottage, which has been much altered but retains a small 16th-century window in a gable, and beyond that is a short link to a small two-storeyed house bearing the date 1737. The east end of the hotel was converted from a three-storeyed commercial building which fronts a former malthouse, in which there is a kiln. This has recently been demolished and redeveloped. Among the houses at the bottom of the Ruffitt is one dated 1824.

North-east of the village on the Gloucester road a house of correction, opened in 1791, was one of several built in the county according to ideas promoted by Sir George Onesiphorus Paul, Bt. Designed by William Blackburn (d. 1790) and completed under the supervision of his brother-in-law William Hobson, it incorporated a two-storeyed building with a central block, containing an office, committee room, chapel, infirmaries, and accommodation for keeper and turnkey, and east and west wings, containing the cells; open arcades on the ground floor of the wings had been filled in by 1812. Around the building were four courtyards and the whole was surrounded by a perimeter wall with a gatehouse on the south side. In 1844 the ground-floor cells were enlarged and a third storey was added to the central block, one room of which became a schoolroom. From 1854 the building was used as a police station and remand prison and in 1874 the east wing was remodelled as a petty sessional court. During the Second World War the cells were used as a store by the county record office and Gloucester cathedral. The police station was closed in 1972 and the building, which continued to house archives until 1979, was purchased by an insurance company in 1985 for a record and computer centre. It is currently used as a museum.

Outside the village the parish contains scattered dwellings including Dean Hall, by the Newnham road, which for over two centuries belonged to the Pyrke family and was the principal residence in Littledean. In the 17th and 18th centuries several small settlements were formed by squatter development on waste ground just outside the Forest, notably at Callamore in the west but also on Dean hill in the southeast and at Waterend Lane (formerly Waterlane End) on the old Mitcheldean road in the north. At least 15 of the people ejected from the extraparochial Forest in the mid 17th century put up cottages or cabins in Littledean, evidently in those places, but most of the dwellings were built or rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries. Building at Callamore, including the site of the farmstead at Colloegrove, began before 1618. In 1679 there were 22 squatters living there, the highest cottages presumably being at Littledean Hill where later buildings marked the eastern limit of the town of Cinderford in 1989. On Dean hill, at the place sometimes known as Pleasant Stile, there were three squatter cottages in 1679. The larger surviving buildings include Temple Farm, an early 18th-century farmhouse known in 1797 as Solomon's Temple. The late 18th-century Hill House was probably the house being built in 1793 for the merchant Joseph Boughton (d. 1801). Dean Cottage was built in the mid 1850s by Duncombe Pyrke for his sisters Charlotte and Emily. (Footnote 88) At Waterend Lane five squatter cottages belonged to Littledean in 1679. Further north a homestead built by Richard Taylor (d. 1712) became known as the Greenway.

Twelve inhabitants of Littledean were assessed for the subsidy in 1327. In 1548 there were said to be 240 communicants in the parish but the figure was probably nearer 200. In 1563 the number of households was 62 and in 1603 the number of communicants was given as 140. In 1650 the parish was said to contain 132 families. The parish's population, estimated c. 1710 at 320 in 70 houses, grew quickly in the later 18th century and early 19th, being estimated c. 1775 at 423 and enumerated as 541 in 1801 and 754 in 1811. After falling to 617 in 1831 it rose to 947 in 1851, after which it declined to 769 in 1901. The boundary changes of 1883 added little to the population, which fluctuated between 782 and 906 in the early 20th century, but the parish's enlargement in 1953 brought a substantial increase and in 1961 the population was 1,378. In 1981 it had fallen to 1,293.

Five keepers of victualling houses were recorded in the parish in 1596 and 14 alehouse-keepers or ale vendors in 1667. In the later 18th century the number of inns and alehouses was much smaller, those that had closed including the Red Lion, recorded in 1670, in Broad Street. The White Lion at the

corner of Broad Street and the Soudley road was recorded from 1797. The Cross Keys southwest of the Cross had opened by 1739 and the Bell in Church Street by 1779. The Golden Heart at the corner of Broad Street and George Lane, open in 1785, had been renamed the George by 1819 and latterly The Belfry. The King's Head northwest of the Cross was recorded from 1796. In 1870 there were six inns and beerhouses in the parish, including the Swan in the Ruffitt, and in 1889 one beerhouse at Littledean Hill was within Littledean. There were five public houses in Littledean in 1903 and the George and the King's Head remained open, with Littledean House Hotel, in 1989. Littledean had two friendly societies in 1803 and societies met in the Bell and Cross Keys inns in 1813. Other societies' rules were enrolled in 1823 and 1842. The village had a brass band in 1843, and a band organised by temperance supporters played at a horticultural show in the village school in 1865. Later a room at a chapel in the village was used for meetings and in 1950 a stable at the rectory house was converted as a church hall. Both places were partly superseded by a village hall built before 1981. The church hall was closed in 1984 and was converted as a house.

In April 1643 Sir William Waller led a force from Chepstow (Mon.) against Prince Maurice, who had lodged in Littledean. The royalists withdrew from the village, enabling Waller to pass through their line, but they engaged the rearguard covering his march to Gloucester. In May 1644 cavalry sent by Edward Massey, commander of the Gloucester garrison, surprised and defeated a royalist garrison at Littledean and later massacred a group of soldiers who had broken the terms for their surrender.

MANORS AND OTHER ESTATES.

Littledean with Mitcheldean and Abenhall was presumably part of the estate called Dean held by William son of Norman in 1086 and apparently had a castle soon afterwards. Woodland there belonging to the Crown was cleared for cultivation by William of Dean (d. c. 1259), the lord of part of Mitcheldean, who paid a rent of 2s. to St. Briavels castle for it. William's son and heir Henry of Dean made further clearances at Littledean and at his death c. 1292 was seised there of assarted land, for which he owed the same rent of 2s., and 2 yardlands held from the Crown for a cash rent of 6d. Henry's lands descended with his Mitcheldean estate to his grandson William of Dean, who at his death c. 1319 had in Littledean a messuage, 51 acres, and rents worth £3 17s. 5d. from 18 freehold estates. His lands, placed in the guardianship of his wife Isabel in 1320, were eventually divided between his infant daughters Joan and Isabel. The Littledean possessions later became known as the manor of LITTLEDEAN. Custody of a bailiwick in the royal demesne woodland of the Forest was probably held with the Littledean lands before 1282 when the bailiwick was in the king's hands. (Footnote 26) It was restored some time after 1319 to the lords of the part of the manor acquired by Isabel of Dean, and in 1565 the Littledean bailiwick, also known as Badcocks Bailey, was held by Richard Baynham (d. 1580) evidently by virtue of his reversionary right to that part of the manor. (Footnote 29) The estate later passed to the Vaughans and they were recorded as woodwards of the bailiwick until the late 17th century.

William of Dean's elder daughter Joan received his Mitcheldean possessions and in 1436 her descendant Robert Baynham had rents totalling £3 2s. 7d. in Littledean. Robert died later in 1436 and his Littledean and Mitcheldean estates descended to William Baynham (d. 1568) and were retained by William's widow Anne in jointure in 1573. By 1608 William's son Joseph held a quarter of Littledean manor and at his death in 1613 was succeeded by his son Alexander. The Littledean estate apparently passed with Mitcheldean in 1694 to Maynard Colchester.

Isabel, William of Dean's other daughter, married Ralph of Abenhall (d. c. 1347), whose daughter and heir Margaret, wife in turn of Lawrence Greyndour and Robert of Huntley, had rents in Littledean at her death in 1375. By 1354 Isabel was married to John Basset, who died in 1362 leaving infant daughters, Margaret and Alice (d. 1367). Margaret married Walter Brown and in 1383 they conveyed a quarter of Littledean manor to John Greyndour, (Footnote 41) the son and heir of Margaret of Huntley. John died in 1415 or 1416 and his part of the manor descended with his estate in Abenhall and Mitcheldean, which passed at the death of Thomas Baynham in 1611 to the Vaughan family. By 1634 the Vaughans' share of the manor was described as two thirds and in 1659 John Vaughan sold it to Henry Heane, whose family already owned land in Littledean. Henry, who was vicar of Olveston, died in 1661 and his share of the manor passed first to his wife Elizabeth and secondly, in 1676, to his son Henry,

rector of Great Witcombe. In 1679 John Parker of Hasfield, the mortgagee, took possession of the estate, which included fishing rights in the river Severn near Broadoak. He died in 1692 leaving it to his daughters Mary, Eleanor, Margaret, and Elizabeth, who sold it in 1700 to Maynard Colchester of Westbury-on-Severn. Maynard, who had apparently inherited another portion of the manor, was regarded as sole lord of Littledean and the manorial rights passed with his Wilderness estate near Mitcheldean and belonged in the early 20th century to M. W. Colchester-Wemyss. A house in which the Misses Parker held courts from 1693 became known locally as the manor house. It stood near the church on the west side of Church Street.

Flaxley abbey had acquired lands in Littledean by 1269. Known sometimes as the manor of LITTLEDEAN they were granted with the abbey's other estates to Sir William Kingston in 1537. Some of the Littledean land descended, under a long lease granted by Anthony Kingston in 1591 and acquired by James Hawkins in 1612, with the Grange estate in Flaxley. Anthony Kingston's son William was among the lords of Littledean in 1608. The Kingstons' successors at Flaxley owned land in Littledean and included the Crawley-Boeveys, who had sold some cottages by the mid 1730s. Sir Thomas Crawley-Boevey, Bt., retained 5 a. in the parish in 1839.

The Brayne family, which owned a substantial estate in Littledean in the 17th century, was descended from Richard Brayne to whom John Greyndour in 1388 granted the reversion of a house and 36 a. held for life by Margery Hayward. The house, known in the early 17th century as HAYWARDS or THE COURT HOUSE, became the chief house of an estate, which passed from Richard Brayne (d. 1572) in turn to his wife Jane and his grandson Thomas Brayne. From Thomas (d. 1604) it passed in jointure to his wife Catherine, who married John Winford and retained the estate in 1638. By 1641 it had reverted under Thomas's will to Ketford Brayne, who, though a royalist, escaped sequestration. Ketford died in 1682 and John Brayne, who fell heavily into debt, sold the house and some land in 1710 to Eustace Hardwicke. In 1715, as part of a settlement of Chancery suits between them, Eustace conveyed the house and land back to John and in 1716 John sold the estate, which included land in adjoining parts of Flaxley and Newland, to his attorney and principal creditor, Walter Roberts of Ross-on-Wye (Herefs.). Walter (d. by 1734) was succeeded by his son James. In 1770 James sold the estate to the attorneys Robert Pyrke and Selwyn James of Newnham and in 1775 they conveyed it to trustees for sale to pay their joint debts. After his partner's death in 1780 Selwyn James took legal action to force a sale and c. 1785 the estate was sold to George Skipp. George, who also acquired the adjoining Grange estate, died in 1804 and the Court House and its lands evidently passed in turn to his wife Frances (d. 1823) and son George. George (d. 1837) left the estate to his wife Hannah and in 1845 she conveyed the house and c. 155 a. to her son Francis Skipp. In 1861 the house and most of the land were sold to the ironmaster Henry Crawshay (d. 1879) and in 1884 the Mitcheldean brewer Thomas Wintle bought them. He died in 1888 and his trustees sold the house and 60 a. in 1906 to William Smith, the tenant farmer. In 1984 the house and some land were bought by Mr. Frank Thorpe. The Court House, which had become a farmhouse by the early 18th century and was later known as Court Farm, was on the south side of Broad Street near the northwestern end of the village. It was occupied by a farm bailiff by the early 1850s and was rebuilt as a bailiff's house in the 1860s or 1870s.

A house outside the village by the Newnham road, known by 1628 as Littledean Hall and later as DEAN HALL, became the centre of an estate built up by the Pyrke family. The house belonged until 1611 to the Cockshoot estate in Newnham, which Richard Brayne settled in 1552 on his son John, later described as of Newent. In 1599 John, together with his son Richard, sold the estate to his nephew Thomas Brayne (d. 1604) and in 1606 Richard, who under Thomas's will had a reversionary right, acquired it outright from Thomas's widow Catherine. Richard sold the house in Littledean in 1611 to Richard Brayne of Bristol, a grocer, who sold it in 1612 to Charles Bridgeman of Poulton Court in Awre. Charles, who bought land around the house, made it his residence and at his death in 1643 left the small estate to his wife Catherine (fl. 1657). His grandson Charles Bridgeman sold it first in 1657 to John Wade, the chief administrator of the Forest of Dean, and, having bought it back from Wade in 1662, secondly in 1664 to Thomas Pyrke of Abenhall, a landowner at Mitcheldean. Thomas took up residence in the house and enlarged the estate, which at his death in 1702 passed to his wife Anne in

jointure. She released it in 1703 to his son and heir Nathaniel in return for an annuity. Nathaniel, who in 1710 added the Cockshoot to the estate, died in 1715 leaving his son Thomas as his heir. From Thomas (d. 1752) the estate passed in turn to his wife Dorothy (d. 1762) and his great-nephew Joseph Watts. Joseph, who changed his surname to Pyrke, took possession in 1764 and died in 1803 leaving the estate of 185 a. in Littledean and Newnham to his son Joseph Pyrke (d. 1851). From the latter it passed to his son Duncombe (d. 1893), whose son Duncombe broke it up by sales. In 1897 H. J. Austin, a Lancaster architect bought the house and c. 30 a. and in 1898 he sold the same to John Penberthy. Penberthy, who bought other land in and around Littledean, died in 1927 and, following the death of his wife Eleanor in 1938, his daughter Eleanor, wife of E. W. Jacques, sold the house to M. G. Corbet-Singleton (d. 1964). Corbet-Singleton's widow Enid left it in 1975 to Mr. David Macer-Wright, whose son, Mr. D. M. Macer-Wright, was the owner in 1989.

The north-south range of Dean Hall is probably of the 16th century and has a conventional three-roomed plan. In the early 17th century a new parlour wing, apparently re-using older foundations, was added to the north end. A service wing to the west of the south end of the main range may also be of the 17th century but it was remodelled in the 18th and 19th centuries. Minor additions were made to the north wing in the early 19th century and it was refronted to incorporate the attics and given a central entrance porch in 1852. At the same time gates were built to the south on the Newnham road at the end of a drive which followed the old line of the road on the east side of the house. From the late 1850s the house, while it belonged to the Pyrke family, was occupied by tenants, including from 1877 the barrister F. E. Guise (d. 1893).

In 1688 Lincoln College, Oxford, acquired a rent charge of £14 in Littledean to support scholarships established under the will of Thomas Marshall. The college apparently received a rent of £12 in the late 18th century.

In the later Middle Ages the tithes of Littledean belonged to St. Bartholomew's hospital, Gloucester, which by the later 16th century usually leased them to the curate of Littledean. The rent charge for which they were commuted in 1840 was used to augment the incumbent's living in 1867. Tithe-free land in the parish presumably represented the estate of Flaxley Abbey, which as a Cistercian house was exempt from paying tithes from land, which it had brought into cultivation.

ECONOMIC HISTORY.

AGRICULTURE

In the 1230s corn was grown on assarted land in Littledean held by William of Dean. In 1282, as a result of encroachments on Crown land by William and his son Henry, Henry held 26 a. of cultivated land, a pasture close containing 15 a., and 2 a. of woodland in Littledean, and seven tenants under him, including 5 cottagers, shared 2½ a. there. In addition to the assarts Henry of Dean's estate in Littledean in 1292 included 2 yardlands described as thicket or undergrowth, and in 1319 that of William of Dean, most of whose 102 a. of assarted land was evidently there, included a yardland (48 a.) of arable, 3 a. of meadow, and rents from 18 freeholders. In 1436 Robert Baynham, holding a part of the manor, received rents ranging between 4d. and 2s. 2d. for 65 holdings from 43 tenants, most if not all freeholders, and rents ranging from 6d. to 8s. for seven holdings outside the manor in Littledean and Newnham. (Footnote 16) On another part of the manor 13 freeholders and 3 leaseholders paid chief rents to Baynham Vaughan in 1632 and at least 23 freeholders paid rents to John Parker in 1686. In 1785 Maynard Colchester received chief rents from 20 small freehold estates, two or three of them outside the manor at Blackmore's Hale and Elton in Westbury-on-Severn. By ancient custom some freeholders owed henots and, from 1653 at the latest, a fine on selling any land. Such customary payments were claimed in Littledean as late as 1906. In 1535 Flaxley abbey had rents and farms worth £10 17s. 2d. clear from its lands in Littledean and, presumably, adjoining parts of Flaxley and Newnham. In or soon after 1618 owners of former assarts, many of which were contiguous to the Forest, secured their titles by paying compositions to the Crown.

William of Dean's estate, as extended in 1319, had 2 neifs, both owing rents and three days' work in the harvest, in Littledean. In 1686 John Parker received rents from at least 14 leaseholders, 3 of whom owed an additional payment of a hen. A few tenancies were at will. In the early 18th century many cottage holdings created by squatter development were held under the Colchesters on leases for

three lives or 99 years. In 1785 Maynard Colchester had 6 tenants holding $\frac{1}{2}$ a.- $9\frac{1}{4}$ a. at rack rent, 33 cottage tenants, and a tenant holding $3\frac{1}{2}$ a. in Littledean.

By the 16th century most land in the parish was in closes of pasture or meadow and several orchards had been planted. Among the livestock kept sheep were most numerous, one flock using a sheepcot erected near Collafield by 1638, but many people also had pigs and some cattle. Tenants of land in Littledean enjoyed common rights in the extraparochial land of the Forest of Dean, including Abbots wood, in the mid 17th century. Those rights, for which the parish paid 3s. 4d. herbage money in the late 18th century, were exercised by six people in 1860. Five Littledean holdings continued to enjoy common rights for horses, cattle, and sheep in Abbots wood until 1872. Throughout the parish, and particularly on the west side, were areas of waste ground. Some of that land was evidently used for grazing and an area on Dean hill was described as a common in 1618. Inclosure of the waste, which had begun by the mid 17th century and continued into the 20th, was mostly for cottages and gardens. Some land taken in from the waste on the northeast side of the parish adjoining Chestnuts hill had been planted with orchards or potatoes by 1754. In 1801 only 46 acres in the parish were said to be under arable crops, mostly wheat and barley. In 1866, when the area returned as arable was 70 acres, half of which grew turnips and other forage crops, permanent grassland accounted for at least 260 acres. The numbers of sheep and pigs returned were 290 and 179 respectively and very few cattle were recorded. At the end of the century and in the early 20th even less land was under arable cultivation and most was given over to grassland and sheep farming. Some beef and dairy cattle were kept. A market gardener lived in Littledean in 1885 and orchards covered at least 66 acres in the enlarged parish in 1896. Cider production on one farm expanded in the early 20th century into a business supplying cider and perry wholesale to inns in a wide area, an enterprise that failed after 1950. Littledean had a small area of commercial plum orchards in the later 1980s when most of the land remained under grass and one of the larger farms was devoted to dairying and another to sheep raising.

There have been many smallholdings and few large farms in Littledean. Parishioners usually combined husbandry with a trade and in 1831 only 9 of 158 families depended chiefly on agriculture for a livelihood. Many more families evidently derived some support from farming and in 1851 the inhabitants included 2 full-time farmers, 2 farm bailiffs, and a haulier, an innkeeper, and a teacher with small farms, and 44 agricultural labourers. In the late 1830s Court farm, part of which was in Flaxley, had 120 acres, Dean Hall farm 55 acres, and most other holdings under 20 acres. In 1863 the inhabitants, apart from the two principal farmers, were labourers, craftsmen and small shopkeepers. Court farm, the tenancy of which had passed to the ironmaster Stephen Allaway by the early 1850s, had been reduced to 60 acres by 1883. For the enlarged parish 31 separate holdings, most worked by tenants, were returned in 1896. Some amalgamation had taken place by 1926 when 16 separate holdings were returned, of which 7 were under 20 acres and another 6 under 50 acres. In the later 1980s Littledean had two farms with 100 ha. (c. 247 acres) or more and at least eight holdings of 20 ha. (c. 50 acres) or less worked by part-time farmers.

MILLS.

In the early 1280s there was an old mill north-east of Littledean below Chestnuts hill and in 1382 two men surnamed 'atte mill' were granted land in Littledean. A mill, apparently that belonging to John Player in 1515, stood below Chestnuts hill on the stream north of the Gloucester road and was owned by the Pomfrey family in the mid 16th century. Richard Pomfrey, a weaver, sold it in 1577 to Thomas Pinfold, a Stroud mercer, and in 1597, when Pinfold sold it to Rowland Heane, it was a grist mill. Ownership of the mill, which was occupied in 1619 by John Swift and was operated from 1674 by Ephraim Sansom of Blackmore's Hale, descended to Thomas Heane of Tockington, who in 1679 sold it to Thomas Pyrke. The mill was in use in 1785 (Footnote 68) but the principal building had been removed by 1836. Another building, dating from the early 19th century and standing downstream on the parish boundary, was derelict in 1989.

OTHER INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Littledean was the home of ironworking and metal trades by the mid 13th century, when four itinerant forges fuelled by timber or charcoal were operating there. Henry of Dean felled a grove before 1282

to provide charcoal and among the forges at work in Littledean at that time was one belonging to a sharesmith. Nailmaking had been established by 1327, when a nailer was one of the wealthier inhabitants, and became the most important trade in Littledean. Seventeen nailers listed in 1608 included men of some wealth, notably members of the Robinson family whose descendants were in the trade until the 19th century. Among the craftsmen of the parish in 1608 were also two pinners.

The early forges and furnaces, one of which was owned by Richard Brayne (d. 1504), smelted ore mined locally. The scale of the industry is indicated by the deposits of cinders or slag found by roads throughout the parish in the later 17th century. In the west at Callamore and Pennywell and in the south-east they formed prominent tumps. Littledean was one of the principal ironworking centres in the Forest area in the early 1560s, when three local smithholders or ironmasters, including members of the Hawkins family, bought most of the coppice wood in the Crown demesne woodlands for making charcoal. Metal trades, principally nailmaking, remained a major source of employment long after 1672, when five or more forges were operating in the parish. By the later 17th century the cinder tips were being removed for resmelting and in 1680 John Parker agreed to sell cinders on the waste ground of his manorial estate to the Flaxley furnace; they were being taken there from Pennywell in 1710. The Colchesters removed cinders from Callamore in the mid 18th century but the digging of cinders had apparently ended by the 1780s.

Miners were recorded in Littledean from the mid 13th century and eleven miners and a collier were listed in the parish in 1608. The number of coal miners probably increased in the 17th century, when squatters migrated from the Forest to Littledean, and 12 coal miners were exempted in 1718 from paying parish rates on their cottages evidently because of poverty. The mining community was centred on Callamore, where at least eight coal miners lived in 1728. Coal has been mined on that side of the parish but most colliers presumably worked in adjoining parts of the Forest. A marlpit was dug in Littledean before 1280 and deposits of iron ore and ochre to the west and southwest of Littledean had been exploited by the 17th century. In 1608 a parishioner was employed carrying red ochre (raddle). In the late 17th century limestone was quarried and burnt at Callamore, at the top end of which a limekiln, perhaps that standing near Collogegrove in 1668, continued to operate in the early 18th century.

Littledean's importance as an industrial and local trading centre is indicated by the large number of craftsmen and tradesmen listed in the parish in 1608; of the 107 men named only 6 were described as husbandmen. Nearby woodland supported several industries and crafts, including the making of hoops in the 1550s, shovels and trenchers in the 1600s, and saddle-trees in the 1640s. It also supplied bark for tanning, which had been introduced to Littledean by 1597. The principal tannery, worked by Rowland Heane (d. 1610) and his son David (d. 1619), (Footnote 6) was near the church and possibly remained in use in the mid 1740s. (Footnote 8) Two glovers were listed in 1608. In the 1790s the merchant Joseph Boughton, a member of a Broadoak family, lived in Littledean and was active in the timber trade. Although cloth was stolen at Littledean in 1377 and a few weavers lived in the parish in the late 16th century and several clothiers in the later 17th century, the textile trades were not strong. Three weavers were listed in 1608, when the inhabitants included two chapmen, a tinker, and a bone lacemaker and the more usual country crafts and trades were represented by a smith, four carpenters, two joiners, three butchers, and a tiler. In 1766 there was a thatcher. Few members of the professional classes have pursued careers in Littledean. Exceptions were an architect and a surgeon, both of the Steel family, in the early 18th century.

In the later 18th century many poor inhabitants continued to depend on nailmaking and mining for a livelihood. Although several nailmakers such as Philip Robinson (d. 1809), who took over his uncle's business in 1776 and acquired some coalworks, prospered, the trade was mostly in the hands of poor labourers working individually. In 1851 it gave employment to 28 parishioners but in the later 19th century it was gradually abandoned and by the First World War had virtually ceased. The mining population of the west part of the parish grew as new and deeper mines were opened, particularly from the late 1820s, around Cinderford. In 1851 it comprised 49 coal miners and 15 iron miners and in 1872 or 1873 the Forest branch of the Amalgamated Association of Miners formed a lodge in Littledean. Among the new pits in the Forest the St. Annals, Perseverance, and Buckshrafft iron mines, which

extended under Littledean, were closed in 1899. From the 18th century quarrying and limeburning in Littledean were probably on a small scale. In the late 19th century two quarries were reopened, one of them, in the Ruffitt above Callamore, by M. W. Colchester-Wemyss. The other, near St. White's, was worked after the First World War.

In the mid 19th century other inhabitants followed trades usually found in large villages and some, including in 1851 a coal agent, a tinsmith, a patten-ring maker, a stock taker at an iron foundry, and a number of coke workers and railway labourers, presumably worked in the industrial area centred on Cinderford. There were also a number of small shopkeepers in Littledean, where in 1912 the Cinderford co-operative society opened a shop. A small malting industry, established by the mid 18th century, was represented in the early 1850s by three maltsters, of whom one, Joseph Bennett, also traded as a grocer, draper, ironmonger, druggist, and nailmaker. At that time other residents included two carriers and an auctioneer and several ran lodging houses. After the First World War the number of craftsmen and tradesmen in the parish fell, and by the 1950s most of the working population travelled to factories at Cinderford and Gloucester or were employed in the Forest's remaining coalmines. In 1989 the village retained several shops, and above Callamore and by the Gloucester road were coal merchants' yards.

MARKETS AND FAIRS

Littledean was evidently a mart of some importance in 1276, when a monk of Leonard Stanley priory was dealing there in a wide range of merchandise. In the late Middle Ages a market may have been held near the church but in 1573 and later it centred on the market cross. Leather was presumably traded in 1659, when Henry Heane's court appointed a searcher and sealer of leather. Grain, butter, and cheese were the principal commodities bought and sold in a Saturday market at the end of the 17th century. Dealing practices, such as forestalling, engrossing, and badging of corn, drove away business and an attempt to revive the market in 1757 was unsuccessful. Fairs held in Littledean on Whit Monday and 15 November (26 November after the calendar change of 1752) dealt in livestock, metalware, and clothing in 1724 and were mainly for the sale of pedlary in the mid 1760s. In 1794 a wool fair was organized for 18 July. In the mid 19th century the November fair dealt in cattle, sheep, and pigs. Together with the Whitsun fair, which had apparently been revived by 1885, it had been discontinued by the mid 1920s, when a Monmouth firm of auctioneers conducted two sheep sales, in August and September, handling over 3,000 animals, including a few cattle, each year. One annual sheep sale was held in 1989.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

William of Dean (d. c. 1319) held a court for Littledean. The court held for the part of the manor, which passed to the Vaughan family in 1611 exercised view of frankpledge and occasionally met as a court of survey. Among its surviving records are papers for 1623, for several years in the period 1659-1701, and for 1754 and a court roll for 1653. The court, which apart from tenurial matters dealt with disturbances of the peace and unlicensed alehouses and enforced the assize of bread and of ale, was mostly concerned with the maintenance and cleanliness of streets, streams, and wells and the regulation of encroachments and quarrying, including digging for cinders, on waste land. The lord also claimed waifs, strays, felons' goods, and deodands. The court, which in 1659 appointed an aletaster, a bread weigher, and a searcher and sealer of leather, requested the lord in 1700 to repair the manor's common pound and fined two former constables in 1701 for not having set watch and ward during the summer of that year. It continued to deal with encroachments on the waste at least until 1834.

Two churchwardens were recorded in 1445 and from 1543. By 1716 they also administered poor relief but in 1805 the offices of churchwarden and overseer of the poor were separated, the churchwardens being responsible for the administration of several charities. Most of the money needed for the church was taken from the poor rate until 1834, after which church rates were levied regularly. During the period 1799- 1810, if not for longer, each overseer accounted half the year. Poor relief took the usual forms, including apprenticeships for children. In 1818 the vestry ordered the badging of all paupers receiving parish pay and instructed lodging housekeepers not to admit tramps. The parish subscribed to the Gloucester infirmary and by 1813 it retained a surgeon or doctor to attend the poor.

From 1816 one or two salaried overseers were employed. In the early 19th century the parish maintained its poor in a number of houses, including some built for that purpose and some belonging to a charity. In 1822 it opened a workhouse in the former Red Lion inn and appointed a governor to farm the poor in it for £240, the inmates' earnings, and bastardy payments. From 1823 the workhouse was also used by the parishes of Abenhall and Flaxley, and from 1824 it was run as a pin factory. In 1826 Littledean parish had 13 bedsteads in the workhouse.

Six people received regular help in 1709. The cost of poor relief, which was £64 in 1776 and c. £75 in 1785, had risen to £240 by 1803 when 21 people were given regular and 22 occasional aid. By 1813 the number receiving occasional help had doubled and the cost of relief had risen to £345. After that the annual cost fell and in the late 1820s and the early 1830s it sometimes was less than £200 and only twice was more than £300. Many of the paupers assisted by the parish in the early 1830s lived within the extraparochial area of the Forest of Dean. In 1835 Littledean was included in Westbury-on-Severn poor-law union and from 1895 it was in the East Dean and United Parishes (later the East Dean) rural district. In 1974 Littledean became part of the new Forest of Dean district.

CHURCH.

Architectural evidence shows that Littledean had its own church or chapel by the later 12th century. In 1405 Littledean was a chapelry of Newnham but by 1413 the inhabitants had appointed a chaplain and were paying him tithes and other offerings which St. Bartholomew's hospital, Gloucester, claimed as appropriator of Newnham church. In the mid 15th century, before 1460, the hospital conceded control of the chapel and the choice of priest to the inhabitants and, for a rent of 53s. 4d., granted them the tithes and other profits in Littledean. The patronage, which under a confirmation of that concession in 1477 was conditional on the rent's payment, was exercised by a group of inhabitants in 1514. By 1573 it had reverted, together with the tithes, to the hospital's governors, Gloucester City Corporation, and in 1836 both advowson and tithes passed with the hospital governorship to the Gloucester municipal charity trustees.

A chaplain described in 1508 as rector of Littledean served the church and was presumably receiving the tithes. From the later 16th century Littledean was served by curates nominated by Gloucester Corporation or by the farmer of the tithes. In practice the curate often farmed the tithes but in 1603, when they were valued at £20, he had a stipend of £6. From 1684 the corporation combined the curacy with that of Newnham and the curate held the tithes of both parishes at farm. Littledean came to be regarded as a perpetual curacy. The Littledean tithes were taken in kind in 1680 and were commuted in 1840 for a rent charge of £115. In 1847, when the livings of Littledean and Newnham were separated under a Chancery decree of 1844, the hospital's governors took the rent charge in hand and paid the perpetual curate a stipend of £70. The living, which also benefited from two sermon charities, was valued at £90 in 1856.

In 1866 the governors of St. Bartholomew's hospital sold the advowson and rent charge to William Lockett, the perpetual curate. The following year the living was endowed by Lockett and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners with the rent charge and a further £80 a year and was declared a rectory. Lockett conveyed the advowson later in 1867 to the trustees of the Church Patronage Society. In 1984 the benefice was united with that of Woodside, also known as Cinderford St. Stephen, which was in the same gift. Littledean was enlarged for ecclesiastical purposes in 1909, when the adjoining part of the Forest at Chestnuts hill was transferred to it, and in the late 1970s, when land to the south was added from Flaxley.

In 1594 a house in Littledean was known as the parish priest's house but in 1680 and later the curacy lacked a residence. A grant of £400 from Queen Anne's Bounty was used in 1822 to buy a house in Broad Street. That building, part of which had once been a malthouse, was pulled down and replaced by a new house in the later 1860's and a field behind it was acquired as glebe in 1878. After the union of benefices in 1984 the house was sold and the incumbent lived at Cinderford.

Under the will of George Morse of Henbury, dated 1668, the curate of Littledean was to receive 10s. a year for a sermon but the bequest was evidently never paid. Two other sermon charities founded under the wills of Eustace Hardwicke (d. 1718) and Dorothy Pyrke (d. 1762), yielded £1 11s. for the incumbent. The value of the Pyrke sermon charity, which in 1906 was consolidated, with a clothing

charity, remained unchanged at £1.05 in the late 1980s when the incumbent received £5 for Hardwicke's sermon.

In the early 16th century several chaplains or chantry priests served in the church. One accused of incontinency absconded with a woman in 1508 and another accused in 1522 of fathering two children remained in office in 1525. George Pomfrey, curate in 1551, was a former canon of Llanthony priory and chantry priest in the church. From 1563 he also held Rodmarton rectory and in 1572 was non-resident. In 1612 the curate was presented for not preaching monthly sermons and for conducting irregular marriages of minors. Following the death in 1636 of an aged and enfeebled curate and petitions from many parishioners his assistant Walter Ridler became curate. Soon afterwards Bishop Goodman suspended him for preaching that Roman Catholics were damned but Ridler, although denounced as 'an inconformable minister' by opponents of his puritan patrons, retained the cure until 1651. His successor Thomas Ashfield, a preaching minister who had served the church for a stipend of £22 in 1650, subscribed to the Act of Uniformity in 1662. In the early 1670s Henry Heane, rector of Great Witcombe and heir to part of Littledean manor, had the cure. Of the men who served the cures of both Littledean and Newnham John White, admitted in 1714, was also rector of Mitcheldean from 1723 and his successor John Winfield, admitted in 1727, accepted Churcham vicarage in 1733 and was dismissed in 1739 because of non-residence. James Parsons, perpetual curate from 1800, had by 1822 appointed separate curates for Littledean and Newnham. He later resided in Littledean and served the parish in person until 1845. Under H. M. Willis, his successor at Littledean in 1847, the replacement in 1849 of Joseph Bennett, a long serving churchwarden who had refused to let charity money be used for a new village school, led some members of the congregation to withhold church rates until Willis resigned in 1857. The next incumbent, J. J. Hedges (d. 1864), faced opposition from Bennett over the restoration of the church.

A chantry dedicated to the Holy Trinity was established in Littledean church in 1412 or 1413. Its founder, Philip Hook (d. 1406), endowed it with Stantway manor in Westbury-on-Severn. At its dissolution the chaplain had an income of £6 3s. 2d. and the endowments included his house and rents in Westbury and Littledean. They were granted in 1550 to John Butler and Hugh Partridge. In 1468 there was a chantry of St. Mary in the church. In 1548 its chaplain, who said a morrow mass, had an income from land in Littledean and Westbury of £2 18s. 2d., which the parishioners had often used for repairing the church, highways, and a conduit bringing water to the village. The Littledean land, which the Crown leased in 1563 to Robert and Goodith Brayne, was said in 1594 to include houses once occupied by the chantry priest and a bellman. Thomas Brayne of Mitcheldean by will proved 1531 left land for an obit in Littledean church.

The church, which had been dedicated to ST. ETHELBERT by 1406, is built of coursed rubble and has a chancel with north chapel, a clerestoried nave with north aisle and south porch (the porch used as a vestry), and a west tower with the stump of a spire. The responds of the chancel arch and the south wall of the nave date from the later 12th century. In the 14th century the chancel, including the arch, was rebuilt and the aisle was added. The chapel had been built by 1413 to accommodate the Holy Trinity chantry and was by 1504 the mortuary chapel of the Braynes. The clerestory and the tower and spire were also added and some windows were enlarged in the 15th century. The chapel retains its original roof and the chancel, nave, and aisle have 17th-century ceilings. An early 16th-century south doorway in the chancel has been blocked. Much tracery had been mutilated or removed by 1849, when the church was described as in bad order, dirty, and ill kept. Earlier the porch had been closed, the pulpit placed against the south wall of the nave, east and west galleries erected, and a corner of the chapel adapted as a vestry. Piecemeal restoration began in 1863 and the galleries had been taken down by 1869. Damage to the building by a storm in 1893 necessitated the removal of the spire in 1894 and further restoration work, notably on the tower.

Windows in the chapel and aisle contain fragments of medieval glass. The church has a cloth formed by two medieval chasubles sewn together and used in the late 18th century to cover the reading desk. A 17th-century communion table stands in the chapel. The font has an octagonal bowl probably of medieval date. George Pomfrey, the curate, by will proved 1575 left 3s. 4d. towards casting church bells. In 1752 a peal of six bells was cast by William Evans of Chepstow (Mon.) and in 1894 one bell,

which had been broken, was recast. The church plate dates from the 19th century. The organ, dated 1790, was bought in the mid 20th century. There are 18th-century wall monuments to members of the Pyrke family and among the floor tablets is one to Ketford Brayne (d. 1705). The churchyard contains a number of 18th-century tombchests and carved headstones. The surviving registers date from 1684.

NONCONFORMITY.

Several parishioners refused to attend the parish church in the late 16th century and the early 17th and some Roman Catholics were alleged to have obtained the curate's suspension in 1637. William Brayne disturbed the incumbent during prayers in 1616 and John Brayne's house was licensed in 1672 as a place of worship for a Presbyterian group. Independents registered a house in the village in 1724 but no dissenters were reported in the parish in 1750. Independents meeting at Littledean Hill from the late 1790s under the preacher Richard Stiff moved to a house in Broad Street, which they registered in 1805 and converted as a chapel. In 1813 an adjoining house was incorporated in the chapel, which was taken down to make room for a new building in 1820 when the congregation worshipped, temporarily, in premises called the Club Room. The new chapel, built chiefly through the efforts of the Gloucester minister William Bishop, was opened in 1821. It sent missions to the Forest of Dean, notably to Pope's Hill and Drybrook and had David Prain as resident minister in the later 1820s. It was enlarged in 1847 and had attendances averaging over 200 in 1851. A manse was built in Broad Street c. 1870. The chapel, to which a schoolroom was added in 1885, was described as Congregational from the later 19th century and had 60 members in 1900. It later shared a minister with other churches and in 1972 joined the United Reformed Church. Services were well attended in 1989.

Two houses registered on the same day in 1815 by John Wright, a Newent minister, were said to be in Littledean but one may have been at Cinderford. A house in Silver Street was registered in 1823. The congregation for which Isaac Denison, a Wesleyan Methodist minister living in Littledean, registered a house in 1824 presumably attended the Wesleyan chapel opened at Littledean Hill later that year. Bible Christians sent a mission to Callamore in or before 1837. In 1842 a Baptist preacher from Dursley visited Littledean once a month and in 1846 a member of Cinderford Baptist church registered a house in the parish.

EDUCATION.

William Ipsley (fl. 1548), the priest of St. Mary's chantry in Littledean, kept a school. Dorothy Pyrke by will proved 1762 left £200 for a sermon and a school at Littledean. A woman was to have a salary of £4 4s. for teaching 10 poor children to read and the school 10s.-worth of books a year. There is no evidence when the school started but it was in existence in 1815. In the mid 1820s Joseph Pyrke, who had the principal sum in hand, made the payments specified in the bequest and his wife Elizabeth frequently visited the school, which in 1845 was held in the cottage of the teacher, an elderly, ill-qualified woman. The Independents, who had started a Sunday school by 1814, supported a school teaching 86 children in 1819. It may have been the day school recorded in 1825 and the British school faced in 1845 with closure because of dwindling attendances. During that period Littledean had half a dozen fee-paying schools. A Sunday school founded to serve Littledean and the surrounding area was financed by voluntary contributions and taught c. 80 children in 1819, when the master and mistress together were paid £11.

It may have been the Sunday school attended by the pupils of Dorothy Pyrke's charity school in the mid 1820s and supported by subscriptions and conducted in the church in the mid 1840s.

In 1848 a National school opened opposite the church in a new building on land provided by Joseph Pyrke. Funds for its construction were not readily forthcoming and for some years the building remained uncompleted. The school, with which Dorothy Pyrke's charity school merged, was managed by the incumbent and had a single department and an average attendance in 1863 of 60. A wing was added for an infants' school in 1871 and the building was enlarged further in 1896 and 1912. Some overcrowding had resulted from the entry in 1901 of children from Pope's Hill and Flaxley. The school, in which the mixed and infants' departments were amalgamated in 1916, (Footnote had average attendances of 199 in 1910 and 148 in 1938. Problems in raising funds to maintain the school led the

managers to apply for controlled status in 1947. More classrooms were provided in the 1960s and, as Littledean C. of E. Voluntary Controlled Primary school, it had 97 children on its roll in 1989. Dorothy Pyrke's bequest had been invested by 1887, when its income for educational purposes was assigned as prizes for local schoolchildren. The educational charity was administered separately from 1906 and, under a Scheme of 1930, it paid the primary school c. £30 a year in the late 1980s.

Zachariah Jolly, once master at Edward Protheroe's school in Cinderford, ran a private school in Littledean by 1863. It continued until at least 1879.

CHARITIES FOR THE POOR.

The charity of Thomas Bartlem, who by will proved 1714 left the rent of a house for the poor, became due after the death of his widow in 1715 and was distributed in bread worth £1 5s. It lapsed when the parish sold the house but was revived and was paid out of the poor rate by 1799, the money raised by the sale having been used to build poorhouses. The charity was met out of the rents of parish property from 1837. From 1846 the value of the bread distributed was £1 10s. Following the sale of the property c. 1850 the charity was funded from the poor rate but by the mid 1860s it had been discontinued.

Eustace Hardwicke by will proved 1718 gave two fields and an orchard for maintaining his tomb, paying for a sermon, and providing £1worth of twopenny loaves for the poor hearing the sermon. The surplus income from the land was applied, as the donor had intended, in green coats for the elderly. From 1819 the charity's income was £18, double that in the later 18th century, and from 1827 £1 10s. was laid out on bread. Up to c. 70 people, nearly all women, received clothing. The orchard was used as allotments in the 1920s and 1930s. The bequest of Dorothy Pyrke (d. 1762) for a sermon and school provided also for a second clothing charity for the elderly. It was distributed by Joseph Pyrke in the mid 1820s. Another bread charity was founded by Ann Matthews (d. 1800), who by will gave rents from property in Littledean for three doles, each worth 30s. in 1870 the income of the Hardwicke and Matthews charities was assigned, subject in respect of Hardwicke's to the repair of the founder's tomb and the sermon payment, to a wider range of needs, including assistance to schools teaching Littledean children. Dorothy Pyrke's trust, as regulated in 1887, continued, subject to her sermon and educational charities, to provide clothing, and when it was reorganised in 1906 the sermon and clothing charities were consolidated as the Charity of Dorothy Pyrke for Sermon and Poor. By a Scheme of 1929 that charity was brought under the same trust as the Hardwicke and Matthews charities and the trust's income was used to pay for the two sermons and to provide help for the poor and for local schools. In the late 1980s the income was c. £300, of which up to £150 was given to the village primary school.

In 1961 £160 from the assets of a local horticultural society, then being wound up, was assigned to provide payments at Christmas to residents aged over 70. In 1969 a bequest of £150 by Mrs. E. G. M. Evans was added to the fund, which had ceased to function by the late 1980s.

Jane Walter by deed of 1760 gave £40 to provide bibles equally for the poor of Littledean and Mitcheldean. The charity lapsed after a few years as a result of the loss of the principal sum.

Littledean Parish Plan

Questionnaire Results Spring 2005

Report produced by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council



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Introduction

Each household in the parish received a questionnaire to complete in March 2005 as part of the parish plan process. Separate youth questionnaires and housing need surveys were also distributed. Respondents were asked to return their completed questionnaires by the 1st of April.

Each household member aged 18 and over was asked to complete the household questionnaire. Those aged 11-17 were invited to fill in the young people's survey.

Of the 547 household questionnaires delivered, 238 were returned, giving a household response rate of 44%. These 238 questionnaires contained the individual responses of 407 residents aged 18+. In addition, 17 young people's questionnaires were completed, containing the responses of 24 young people aged 11-17.

Summary

Household questionnaire

Response rate

- There was a household response rate of 44%, with 238 out of 547 questionnaires being completed.
- These 238 questionnaires contained the individual responses of 407 residents aged 18+. 41% of the questionnaires were completed by one individual, 50% by two and the remainder by three or more.

Respondent details

- 44% of respondents were male and 56% female
- 19% were aged 18-40, 38% 41-60 and 43% over 60 years of age.
- Half the respondents have lived in the parish for more than 20 years. 20% have lived there for up to 5 years and 30% for 6-20 years.

Household details

- 62% of the households indicated they live in Littledean itself, with the remainder living in the surrounding hamlets.
- 44% live in properties built before 1900.
- 80% own or share-own their homes while 18% rent from a housing association and 2% rent privately.
- All respondents indicated that their home in the parish is their main residence.
- 5 households (2%) own more than one residence in the parish.
- 19% have no cars or vans, 40% have one and 41% have two or more. Those without are mainly aged 75+.
- The most common answer when asked 'What brought you/your family to live here?' was 'Born here' (30%), followed by 'Convenient for employment elsewhere' (21%). Employment in the parish brought 12 households (5%) to live in Littledean.
- 18 households (8%) ticked yes when asked if any part of their home is used for business.

Contact details & volunteering

- 40% of respondents provided at least one piece of contact information at the end of the questionnaire, e.g. address, telephone or e-mail.
- 16 respondents would be willing to assist with, or join, a working party. 12 of these gave details of what they would be willing to help with.
- 4 respondents would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor at the next election in 2007. A further 3 wrote 'Maybe' or 'Not sure', one adding 'Would need more information'.

Community facilities

- 69% of the respondents think there should be a pavilion with changing rooms and showers built on the Recreation Ground to allow it to be used for organised football/rugby/hockey teams.
- 61% think the Recreation Ground should be levelled and extended to allow full size and league compliant pitches to be laid.
- 63% feel that a new Pavilion on the Recreation Ground should include a replacement Community Centre complete with all modern facilities.

- 59% think there should be planned maintenance of churches and churchyards supported by grants from council tax payment or voluntary assistance. 24% disagree.
- 67% would like to see the development and publication of a local register of people's skills or trades, e.g. accounting, cooking, gardening, sports, building, painting & decorating, carpentry etc.
- 29 respondents (7%) ticked yes when asked if they have a need for additional child minder/children's day care provision.
- 45% think there should be more bus shelters.
- 75% think there should be more litter bins.
- 78% are happy with the parish newsletter, 10% are not happy with it and 12% have no opinion.

Crime

- 91% think the police should be more visible in the parish.
- 13 respondents (3%) have visited the mobile police station ("Bobby Bus").
- 77% support Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

Education

- Of the 56 respondents who answered the question, 64% are satisfied with schooling in the area.
- 150 people (19%) feel there are insufficient classes or training for adults, with the most common deficiencies being location and time of day, and other answers including limited choice and lack of publicity. When asked what type of courses are lacking, re-skilling and computers/I.T. were the most common answers, given by 62 and 58 people respectively.

Help for the elderly

- 78 people would attend an active "Friends or Senior Citizens Club" for the elderly to meet regularly for lunch, gossip, outings and entertainment.
- 56 people would be prepared to help with such a club.

Environment/Conservation/Heritage

- 67% feel that the current planning regulations are too bureaucratic, inconsistent or poorly enforced or regulated.
- 73% believe there should be more dog litter bins.
- 68% think it worthwhile trying to enforce fines for dog fouling.
- 52% do not think that broken pavements, potholes etc. are repaired within an acceptable timescale.
- 43% think that cleanliness in the parish is unacceptable.
- 48% do think that surrounding hamlets and lanes are clean enough.
- 83 respondents (20%) would be willing to assist with a footpath clearing party.
- 70% think that the FODDC recycling service is working well. 23% disagree.
- When asked how it falls short, the most common answer was that more materials should be recycled (21% of respondents).
- 41% think that more buildings in the Parish should be preserved or listed. 37% disagree.
- 64% think that more trees/shrubs should be planted on approach roads to the village & also around the Community Centre, Recreation Ground and Millennium Meadow. 24% disagree.

Environment/Conservation/Heritage (continued)

- 45% would be willing to help Littledean win the Bledisloe Cup for “Best Kept Village in Gloucestershire”.
- 20% do not feel the electricity, gas, telephone, sewerage or water supplies are adequate. 45 people (11%) are dissatisfied with the gas provision (or lack of), 42 with mobile phone reception, 38 with sewerage/drainage, 27 with water, 12 telephone and 8 electricity.

Health & social services

- 47% of respondents think the waiting time to see a doctor is unacceptable.
- 26% (105 people) find it difficult to get to the Dilke Hospital. 30% of these live in households without a car or van, and while the 105 people span all the age groups, it is those aged 75+ who most commonly find it difficult to get to the hospital.
- 29% do not feel that local health care provides for all their health needs. When asked 'What is missing', two thirds of these ticked 'Dentist'. (Looking at all respondents, 24% ticked Dentist.)

Housing

- 37% of respondents believe the parish can accommodate new housing. 50% do not.
- When asked what type of housing should be built, the two most popular options were 'Affordable housing for local residents especially younger residents' (28%) and 'Starter homes for single people or couples' (23%). The least popular was 'Larger family homes to rent' (4%).
- Respondents were asked to rate various user groups from 1 to 7 (1 = highest priority, 7 = lowest) to indicate whether house building should be prioritised to meet their needs. Housing for young people was ranked as highest priority overall, with older people in second place and disabled people third. Homeless people came fourth, single parent families fifth and larger families (4+) in sixth and last place.

Leisure facilities/Clubs

- When asked what clubs/activities they attend, or would attend if provided, the three most commonly selected were film/theatre (25%), walking/rambling (24%) and gardening (22%).
- 78 respondents (19%) would be willing to help run a club or activity.
- 47 respondents (12%) would be willing to help to run a Youth Club, Football Club or other Youth Activities.
- When asked what does, or would, prevent them from taking part in local activities or clubs, the most common answers selected by respondents were 'wrong time of day' and 'publicity'.

Local economy/Business/Employment

- When asked what they would like to see in Littledean in regard to the local economy, business and employment, 58% would like the use of local people for local work, 33% investment in promotion of tourism (with overnight stays), 26% a share/swap system for local skills and equipment, 19% the development of small manufacturing or industrial sites and 9% the development of a business park.

Local services

- 65% use Littledean Post Office at least once a week, 54% the local shop and 24% one of the local pubs.
- 29 respondents (7%) use the mobile library. Of these, 15 use it on a regular basis, i.e. monthly or fortnightly.
- When asked which services they would like to see included if a “village hub” was established (e.g. in a pub, The Community Centre or elsewhere), the three most common options selected were local produce sales (50%), tourism information & local events publicity (38%) and Citizens Advice (36%).

Public transport

- If a railway station at Elton was opened and more trains in peak hours were run to Gloucester, Cheltenham & Newport, 31% of respondents would use it on a weekly or daily basis, 37% monthly or less frequently and 32% not at all.
- Regarding public bus services, 33% of respondents would like cheaper fares, 25% access for those with disabilities, 24% more weekend services and 24% more evening services.

Roads/Traffic

- When asked which road/traffic changes they would agree with, the two most popular would be a weight limit to ban lorries from Littledean (70%) and a pedestrian crossing on Broad Street (67%), while the least popular would be improved street lighting (23%) and no parking at The Cross and on Broad Street by the shops (34%).
- 73% of respondents think that speed checks should be carried out regularly.
- 62% support a speed camera in Broad Street.

Tourism

- Respondents were shown a list of suggestions for increasing tourism and were asked to tick any they thought should be developed. The three most popular were the publication of a map showing footpaths and places of interest (67%), the abolition of parking charges at Forestry Commission picnic sites (64%) and to continue to fund the toilets in Littledean (56%). Only 2% of respondents said that tourists were not wanted.

Parents of children

- Parents/guardians were asked which activities their children attend, or would attend if available. 37 households ticked one or more of the items listed in the questionnaire or added their own suggestions. The three most commonly ticked were after-school activities organised by school (16 households), a playschool (15) and brownies/cubs (15).
- When parents/guardians were asked if they would support the continued provision of the adventure playground behind the school for children under the age of 12 years, 49 of the 52 households who answered the question ticked yes and 3 ticked no.
- 12 people indicated that they would be prepared to help organise activities and/or supervise the playground on a rota basis. 7 of these supplied their contact details at the end of the questionnaire.

Youth Questionnaire

17 young people's questionnaires were completed, containing the responses of 24 young people aged 11-17.

Respondent details

- Exactly half the respondents were male and half female.
- Respondents covered the whole age range (11-17), with 14 the most common age.
- All the respondents are at secondary school (21) or sixth form (3).
- Half would like to go to college or university in the future. A third are undecided. None would like to get jobs locally.

Current activities

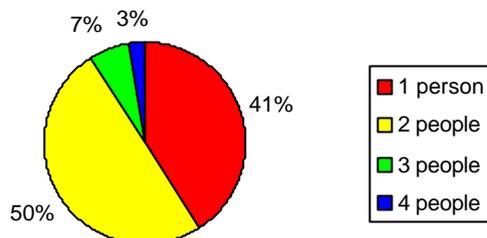
- When asked what they do in their spare time at home, the most common answer selected was 'visiting friends or having friends around'.
- When asked what they do in their spare time out of doors, the most common answer selected was 'activities with friends (walk, football etc.)'.
- The most common answers selected when asked what leisure activities they do, or would get involved in if provided, were cinema/theatre (15 young people), canoeing (14), camping (12) and music: listening to/in a band (12)
- The two most common destinations for activities and entertainment are Cinderford (71%) and Gloucester (63%).
- The most common means of transport is lifts from parents (88%). 7 of the young people (29%) use public transport.
- When asked what does, or would, prevent them from taking part in local activities or clubs the three most common answers were: take place at wrong time (46%), too expensive (46%) and unsafe/wrong crowd (46%).

New activities

- The most popular organised trips would be a theme park (83%), concert (63%) and major sports event (50%).
- The three facilities which the highest proportion of the young people would like to have in the village are a youth café/coffee bar (63%), music venue/live events (54%) and a better equipped recreation ground (54%)
- Only one of the young people would be interested in participating on a Youth Council.

Household questionnaire

As mentioned in the introduction, 238 household questionnaires were completed, containing the responses of 407 individuals. The pie chart below shows the number of individual responses per questionnaire. For example, 41% of the questionnaires contained the responses of one individual, and 50% the responses of two.



Most questions required an individual rather than a household response. Unless specified otherwise, percentages are based on the total number of individuals who took part in the survey rather than on the number who answered any particular question. Respondents were asked to leave the answer boxes blank if they had no opinion.

A few respondents wrote comments alongside the answers they ticked. These are shown underneath the charts.

The results are presented on a question-by-question basis, in the same order and using the same numbering and wording as in the questionnaire.

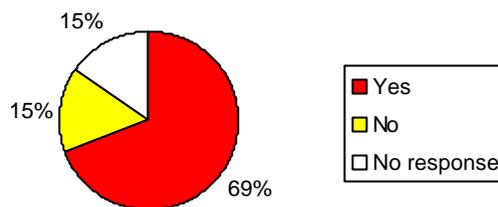
Sections 1A and 1E contain a large number of Yes/No questions extending over several pages. At the end of each of these sections a summary of the responses to these questions is provided for reference.

Section 1: About your views

A) Community facilities

Question 1. Do you think that there should be a Pavilion with changing rooms and showers built on the Recreation Ground to allow it to be used for organised football/rugby/hockey teams?

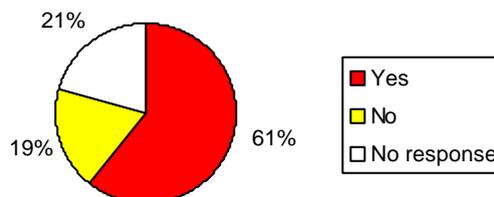
Over two thirds of the 407 respondents think there should be a pavilion as described in the question. 15% disagree and 15% have no opinion.



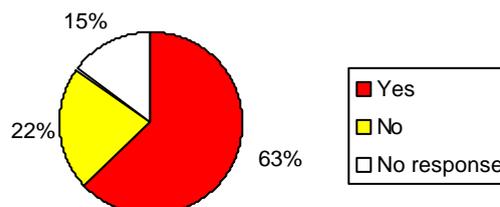
Comment

- *And cricket teams?*

Question 2. Do you think that the Recreation Ground should be levelled and extended to allow full size and league compliant pitches to be laid?



Question 3. Do you think that a new Pavilion on the Recreation Ground should include a replacement Community Centre complete with all modern facilities?

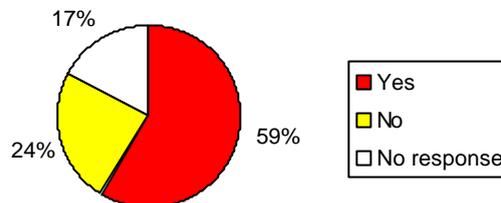


Question 3 (continued)

Comments

- *Depends on how much it costs*
- *Current situation is directly near Folders and easy access for children.*
- *The community centre should stay where it is, in the heart of the community. Also, the "rec" is inaccessible to younger children because of the road, would it not be better to expand play area behind school?*
- *I understand years ago something about a clause on it, something to do with the Miners??*

Question 4. Should there be planned maintenance of churches and churchyards supported by grants from your council tax payment or voluntary assistance?



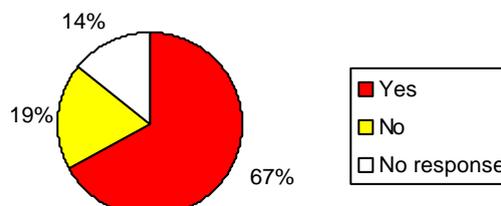
Comments

- *I think there should be continued maintenance of churchyards, but I cannot comprehend how you can maintain churches in the village.*
- *Churchyards can be valuable wildlife habitats and need to be managed with that in mind – 'strim & spray' is not necessarily a good idea.*

Note

- *Four of those who ticked 'Yes' circled "voluntary assistance".*

Question 5. Would you like to see the development and publication of a local register of people's skills or trades, e.g. accounting, cooking, gardening, sports, building, painting & decorating, carpentry etc.



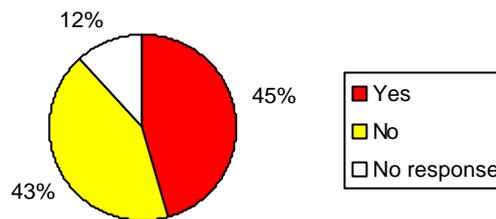
Question 6. Do you have a need for additional child minder/children's day care provision?

29 respondents (7% of 407) ticked yes.

Note

- *Looking at the answers by household rather than by individual, 17 households (7% of 238) contain someone who ticked yes.*

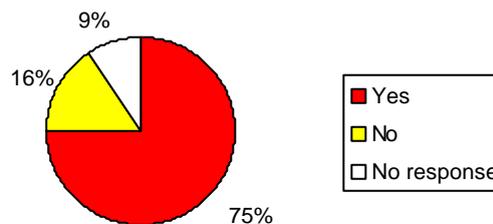
Question 7. Do you think there should be more bus shelters?



Comments

- *Make bus shelters on main roads much more visible.*
- *Bus shelters are not given sufficient space for people to stand/cross safely after getting on/off bus.*

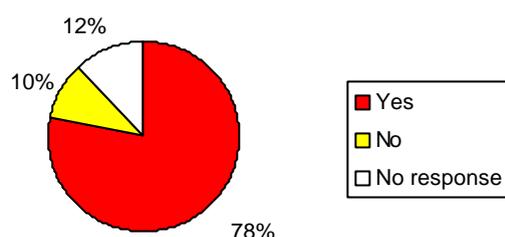
Question 8. Do you think there should be more litter bins?



Comments

- *The number of bins and frequency of emptying within the village car park is inadequate.*
- *We would like to encourage the picking up and taking of all types of litter thus preventing street pollution i.e. litter bins and dog litter bins.*
- *There has been an increase in beer cans (and other litter) by the roadside in the Denton's corner to Pope's Hill road in particular. More litter bins won't solve the problem. Campaign to educate people (probably teenagers/youth) about taking responsibility for their own refuse probably won't work either but could be worth a try. Failing that we need more regular removal of this litter.*

Question 9. Are you happy with the parish newsletter?



Comments

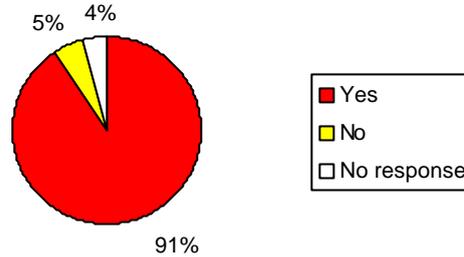
- *Don't get one.*
- *Receive Westbury parish magazine. I would like to receive the Littledean one.*
- *Newsletter could address many problems of non-communication within the village. It needs to be more frequent and give more information. Examples below:*
 - *Training classes for adults and forthcoming village activities (Q14, 15 & 16)*
 - *Bledisloe Cup (Q30) – what is entailed?*
 - *Times of mobile library – unaware of this service in Littledean.*
 - *Activities both secular and religious.*
 - *No mention of the Christingle Service at the URC which is aimed at helping homeless and underprivileged children (very poorly attended) or times of any church services for Christmas period.*

Summary of Q1-9: Community facilities

		Yes	No	No response
Q1	Do you think that there should be a Pavilion with changing rooms and showers built on the Recreation Ground to allow it to be used for organised football/rugby/hockey teams?	69%	15%	15%
Q2	Do you think that the Recreation Ground should be levelled and extended to allow full size and league compliant pitches to be laid?	61%	19%	21%
Q3	Do you think that a new Pavilion on the Recreation Ground should include a replacement Community Centre complete with all modern facilities?	63%	22%	15%
Q4	Should there be planned maintenance of churches and churchyards supported by grants from your council tax payment or voluntary assistance?	58%	24%	17%
Q5	Would you like to see the development and publication of a local register of people's skills or trades, e.g. accounting, cooking, gardening, sports, building, painting & decorating, carpentry etc.	67%	19%	14%
Q6	Do you have a need for additional child minder/children's day care provision?	7%	76%	16%
Q7	Do you think there should be more bus shelters?	45%	43%	12%
Q8	Do you think there should be more litter bins?	75%	16%	9%
Q9	Are you happy with the parish newsletter?	78%	10%	12%

B) Crime

Question 10. Do you think the police should be more visible in the parish?



Question 11. Have you visited the mobile police station (“Bobby Bus”)?

13 respondents (3%) have visited the mobile police station.

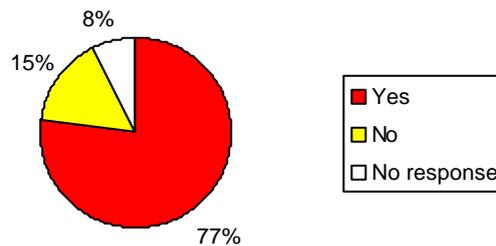
Comments

- *Did not know it existed*
- *Unable to because of ill health*
- *Waste of money*
- *Know people who have and voiced issues, but no action taken*

Note

- *Looking at the answers by household rather than by individual, 9 households (5% of 238) contain someone who has visited the mobile police station.*

Question 12. Do you or would you support Neighbourhood Watch Schemes?



Comment

- *We do this informally with our neighbour.*

C) Education

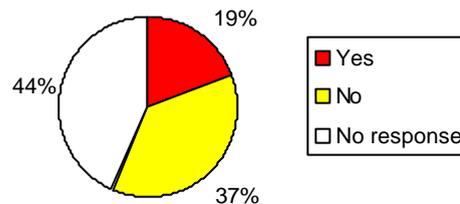
Question 13. If you have children of school age, are you satisfied with schooling in the area?

Of the 56 people who answered the question, 64% are satisfied with schooling in the area.

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 56 respondents
Yes	36	64%
No	20	36%
Total	56	100%

Question 14. Do you think there are sufficient classes or training for adults?

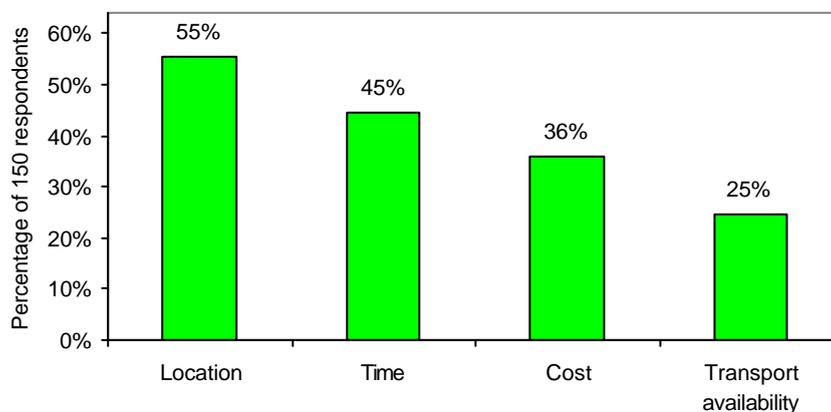
150 people do not feel there are sufficient classes or training for adults.



Question 15. If answer to Q14 is no – why not? (Please tick as many as you wish)

N.B. The percentages below relate only to the 150 people who ticked 'No' to Q14.

Of the options listed in the questionnaire, the most commonly selected were location and time. Other answers given by respondents included limited choice and lack of publicity.



Question 15 (continued)

'Other – please specify'

- Limited range/choice/variety x 12 respondents
- Lack of publicity/information/advertising x 4
- Lack of funding x 2
- Advice, encouragement & information needed in village location to connect with 'hard to reach' learners – leaflet not enough to encourage learning.
- Wrong type of training.
- Population too small
- Social contact
- Over 50s classes after 6pm
- Type

Question 16. If answer to Q14 is no – what is lacking? (Please tick as many as you wish)

N.B. The percentages below relate to all 407 respondents, since the question was also answered by some of those who ticked yes to Question 14 or who left it blank.

Re-skilling and computers/I.T. were the most common answers.

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 407 respondents
Re-skilling because old industries have gone or to compete in new ones	62	15%
Computer/I.T.	58	14%
New business start-up for self-employed	48	12%
Keep fit/yoga/pilates	48	12%
Foreign languages	37	9%
Engineering	20	5%
Other – please specify	23	6%

'Other – please specify'

- Art x 4
- Craft x 4
- Sewing group
- Embroidery, patchwork etc.
- Carpentry
- City & Guilds courses
- Creative writing
- Food hygiene
- Gardening
- History
- Local affairs
- First Aid (one-off course)
- Parentline courses
- Photography
- Self-improvement
- Swimming
- Tai Chi
- U3A

D) Help for the elderly

Question 17. Would you attend an active “Friends or Senior Citizens Club” for the elderly which meets regularly for lunch, gossip, outings and entertainment?

78 people ticked yes. An age and gender profile of these 78 is given below, e.g. 35% of the 78 people are aged 75+ and 62% are female.

	Number of people	Percentage of 78 people
41-60	17	22%
61-75	29	37%
75+	27	35%
Unknown	5	6%
Total	78	100%

	Number of people	Percentage of 78 people
Male	25	32%
Female	48	62%
Unknown	5	6%
Total	78	100%

The results are shown in a different way below. For example, 66 people aged 75+ completed a questionnaire. Of these, 27 (41%) would attend the club.

Age group	Number who completed questionnaire	Number who would attend club	Percentage who would attend club
41-60	149	17	11%
61-75	100	29	29%
75+	66	27	41%

Comments

- *Yes, if transport provided.*
- *Am unable to go because of my disability.*
- *No, unless it was lively and varied. Style is dowdy, too old fashioned. Need to be more positive.*

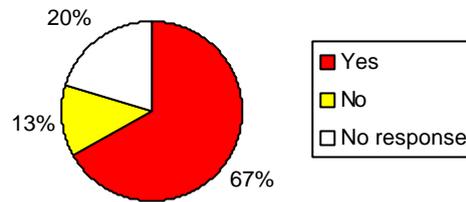
Question 18. Would you be prepared to help with such a club?

56 people would be prepared to help with the club. An age profile of these 56 respondents is given below.

Age group	Number who would help with club
18-25	2
26-40	13
41-60	19
61-75	17
75+	2
Unknown	3
Total	56

E) Environment/Conservation/Heritage

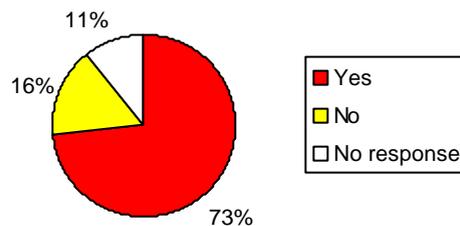
Question 19. Do you think that current planning regulations are too bureaucratic, inconsistent or poorly enforced or regulated?



Comments

- *Inconsistent x 4*
- *Bureaucratic*
- *Need more enforcement*
- *Too many criteria*

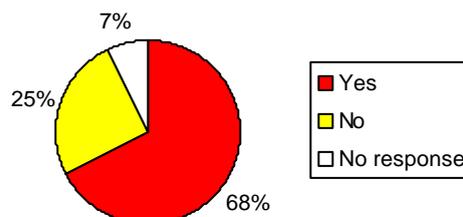
Question 20. Do you think that there should be more dog litter bins?



Comments

- *By church. Asked for 5 years ago, and litter bin.*
- *Folders.*
- *Dog mess on pavements, nobody seems to pick up after themselves.*
- *No. Present bins are rarely used.*

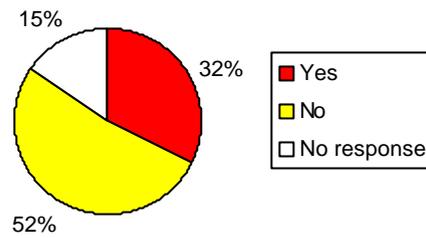
Question 21. Do you think it worthwhile trying to enforce fines for dog fouling?



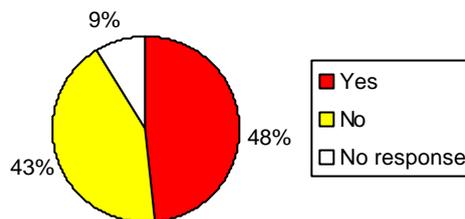
Comments

- *Litter picking in village for culprits.*
- *Re-education may be a better prospect.*

Question 22. Do you think that broken pavements, potholes etc. are repaired within an acceptable timescale?



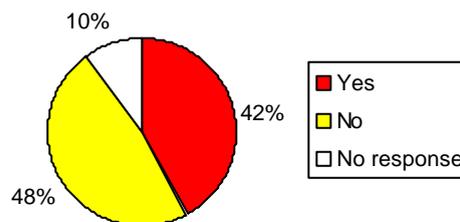
Question 23. Do you think that cleanliness in the parish is acceptable?



Comments

- *Action to control tipping of rubbish in the Forest.*

Question 24. Do you think that surrounding hamlets and lanes are clean enough?



Comments

- *Variable.*
- *Rubbish bin at top of Popes Hill often overflowing and falls off post. We collect litter from lane.*
- *Can we get more road cleaning in the "Ruffit"? I get rather tired of removing cans, papers, bottles of drink etc. from my garden wall and underneath it.*
- *Action against farmers who allow their sheep to roam and cause damage and mess in the hamlets e.g. Collafield. Better maintenance or removal of cattle grid on approach road to Collafield.*

Question 25. Would you be willing to assist with a footpath clearing party?

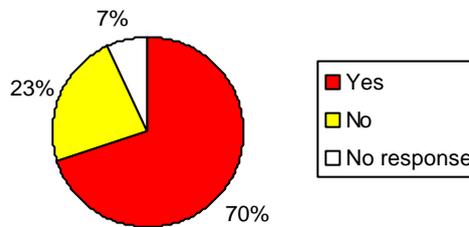
83 respondents would be willing to assist with a footpath clearing party.

	Number of households	Percentage of 407 households
Yes	83	20%
No	249	61%
No response	75	18%

Comment

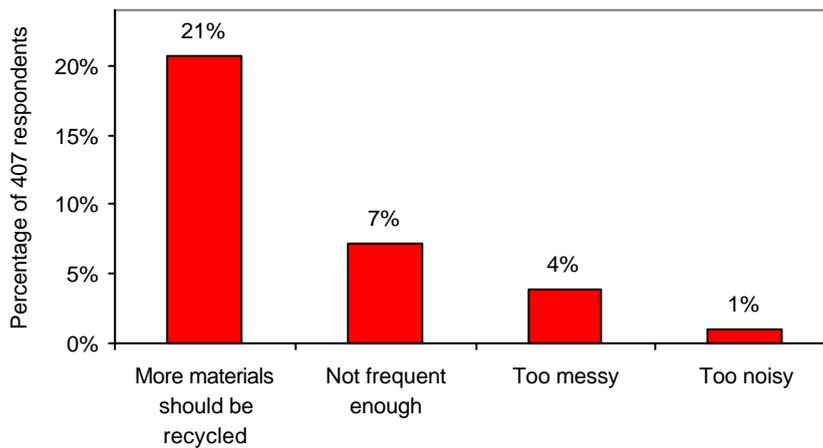
- *Doesn't our extremely high council tax cover this service?*

Question 26. Do you think that the FODDC recycling service is working well?



Question 27. If not, how does it fall short?

A fifth of all respondents think more materials should be recycled.



'Other – please specify'

The comments made under 'Other – please specify' have been put under various headings below for ease of reading.

Lack of facilities

- *No recycling bins on Popes Hill x 5*
- *No recycling bins by school!! or in village*
- *Main bins for recycling gone*
- *More availability of recycling bins*
- *It would be nice to have the fixed facility back that there used to be at Popes Hill and Broadoak.*
- *No bottle banks x 2*
- *More recycling areas are needed*
- *No boxes*
- *Green bags not delivered often enough to those without bins.*
- *Nothing available*

Conduct of contractors

- *Bin men make mess x 2*
- *Contractors throw boxes and break them.*
- *The boxes are thrown to edge of pavement, blow onto road and get run over.*
- *The recycling boxes and dustbin lids are thrown anywhere after emptying, constituting a mess and a danger.*
- *Do not return to property properly.*

Information/publicity

- *More advertising of collection days.*
- *I never know when the collection will be.*
- *Don't know where it is.*
- *The doorstep system is not bad but could be promoted more.*

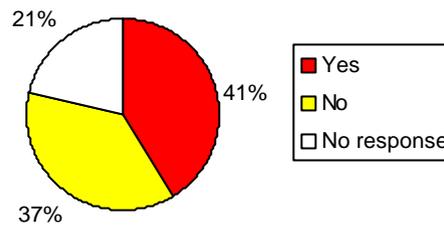
Miscellaneous

- *If it took place weekly rather than fortnightly I would use it more effectively.*
- *Not sure what happens after it is collected.*
- *People should be forced to recycle and fined if necessary.*
- *You have to drive to the tip.*
- *Waste of money.*
- *Dog fouling.*
- *Working well but more could be done.*

In addition, a few respondents specified what additional materials should be recycled:

- *Plastic x 6*
- *Plastic bags*
- *Cardboard x 3*
- *Rags*
- *Plate glass*
- *Waste iron and other metals*

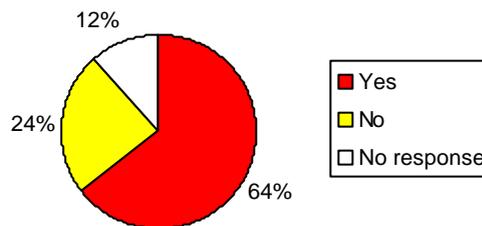
Question 28. Do you think that more buildings in the Parish should be preserved/ listed?



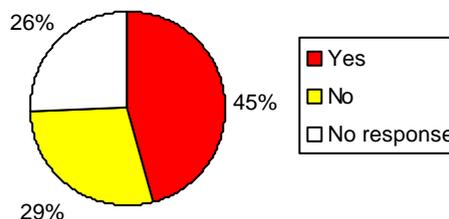
Comments

- *Are any listed now? Not enough info.*
- *The problem with listed properties – quite often restricts buyers/owners and can add potential problems for them.*
- *Should not be allowed to build whilst others lie derelict.*

Question 29. Do you think that more trees/shrubs should be planted on approach roads to the village & also around the Community Centre, Recreation Ground and Millennium Meadow?



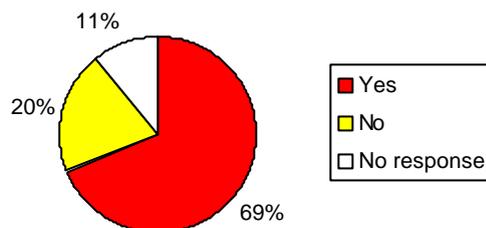
Question 30. Littledean was runner up in the Bledisloe Cup, “Best Kept Village in Gloucestershire” last year. Would you be willing to help us to win it?



Comments

- *But what about Folders residents being invited? Many are proud of the village and have lived here all of their lives and deserve a say.*
- *Green Bottom did very well in the Bledisloe Cup one year and received no help from Littledean Parish Council. Therefore why should you expect help from us?*

Question 31. Are the electricity, gas, telephone, sewerage and water supplies adequate?

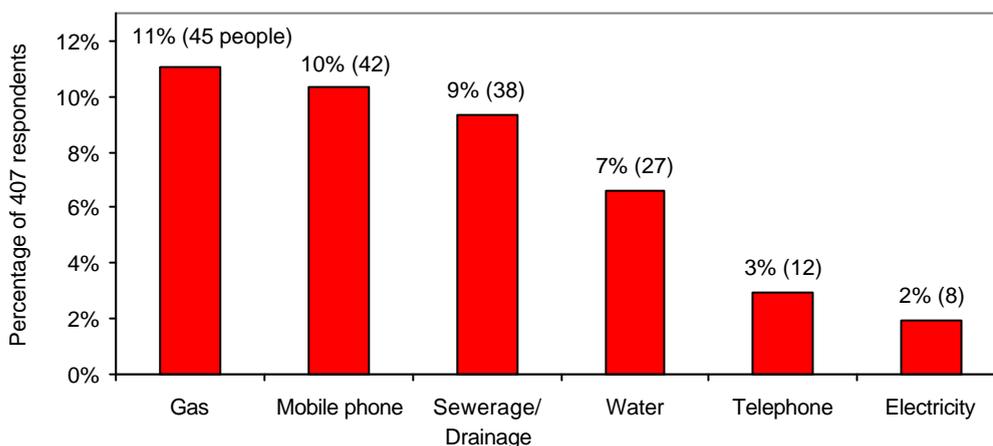


Comment

- Yes in town, no in rest.

Question 32. If answer to Q31 is no – which is unacceptable? (Tick as many as you wish)

45 people (11% of all 407) are dissatisfied with the gas provision (or lack of). 42 are dissatisfied with mobile phone reception and 38 with sewerage/drainage.



Comments

- No gas x 3
- No gas on Popes Hill.
- No sewerage/drainage.
- No main sewerage in Greenway even though there are about 15 properties.
- No mobile phone signal.
- Too much limescale.
- There have been more power cuts in the last couple of years than the previous thirty.
- The electricity and telephone cable network should be properly maintained, not left until it fails before any repairs are done, as is now the case.
- Does anyone on the Council know Greenway exists? We have no street lighting, no main sewerage, snow is never cleared or the lane gritted.

'Other – please specify'

- No broadband x 5
- No broadband 2Mb in Greenbottom
- No digital/cable TV x 4
- No digital radio x 3
- No freeview

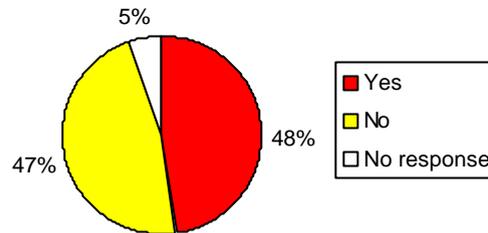
Summary of Q1-19 & Q28-31: Environment/Conservation/Heritage

		Yes	No	No response
Q19	Do you think that current planning regulations are too bureaucratic, inconsistent or poorly enforced or regulated?	67%	13%	20%
Q20	Do you think that there should be more dog litter bins?	73%	16%	11%
Q21	Do you think it worthwhile trying to enforce fines for dog fouling?	68%	25%	7%
Q22	Do you think that broken pavements, potholes etc are repaired within an acceptable time scale?	32%	52%	15%
Q23	Do you think that cleanliness in the parish is acceptable?	48%	43%	9%
Q24	Do you think that surrounding hamlets and lanes are clean enough?	42%	48%	10%
Q25	Would you be willing to assist with a footpath clearing party?	20%	61%	18%
Q26	Do you think that the FODDC recycling service is working well?	70%	23%	7%
Q28	Do you think that more buildings in the Parish should be preserved/listed?	41%	37%	21%
Q29	Do you think that more trees/shrubs should be planted on approach roads to the village & also around the Community Centre, Recreation Ground and Millennium Meadow?	64%	24%	12%
Q30	Littledean was runner up in the Bledisloe Cup, "Best Kept Village in Gloucestershire" last year. Would you be willing to help us to win it?	45%	29%	26%
Q31	Are the electricity, gas, telephone, sewerage and water supplies adequate?	69%	20%	11%

F) Health & social services

Question 33. Do you think that the waiting time to see a doctor is acceptable?

Almost half the respondents feel that the waiting time to see a doctor is unacceptable.

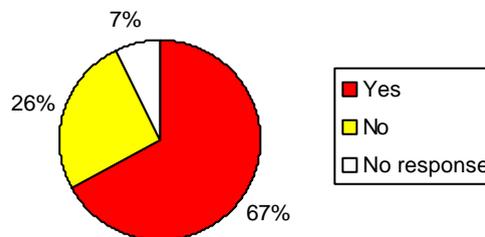


Comments

- *Not ideal but understand the GP's demanding workload.*
- *Not always.*
- *Takes around two weeks to get to see a doctor*

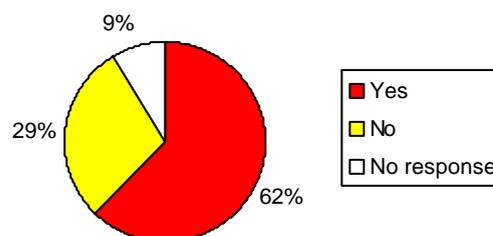
Question 34. Do you find it easy to get to the Dilke Hospital?

105 respondents (26%) find it difficult to get to the Dilke Hospital. These 105 people span all the age groups from 18-25 to 75+, and 30% live in households without a car or van. 45% of all those aged 75+ find the hospital difficult to get to, with figures of between 19% and 25% for the other age groups.



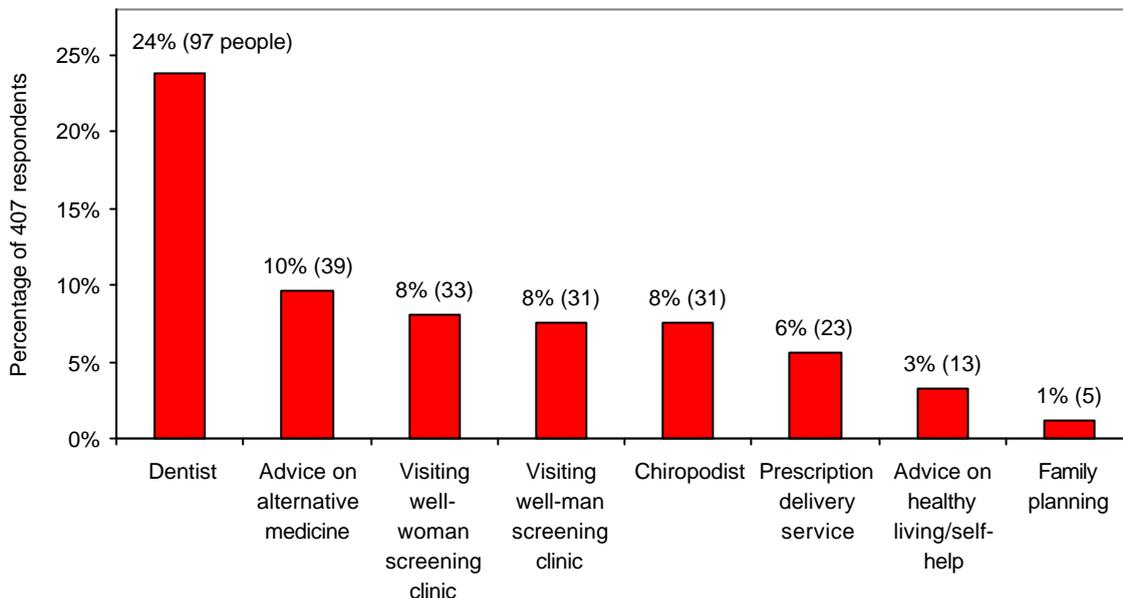
Question 35. Does Local Health Care provide for all of your health needs?

Almost 3 in 10 respondents do not feel that local health care provides for all their health needs.



Question 36. If answer to Question 35 is no, what is missing? (Tick as many as you wish)

Almost a quarter of all respondents ticked 'Dentist'.



Note

- As mentioned above, the percentages in the chart are based on all respondents, not just those who ticked no for Q35. However, looking only at those who ticked no for Q35, 66% ticked 'Dentist' in response to Q36.

'Other – please specify'

- Chiropractor x 2
- Optician x 2
- Chiropodist too infrequent
- Visiting chiropodist
- Osteopath
- Bone density programme
- Mental health support/support group
- Pain clinic
- Preventative medicine
- General well-person screening clinic
- Regular health checks
- Specialist appointments locally, not Gloucester Royal.
- Lacks tongue cancer specialist facilities which are available only in Gloucester Royal.
- Help with disability aids
- Home care attendance

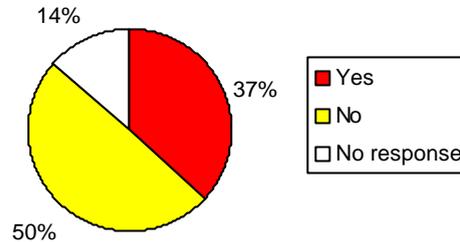
Comments

- Dentist: problem no NHS

G) Housing

Question 37. Do you think the parish can accommodate new housing?

37% of respondents believe the parish can accommodate new housing.

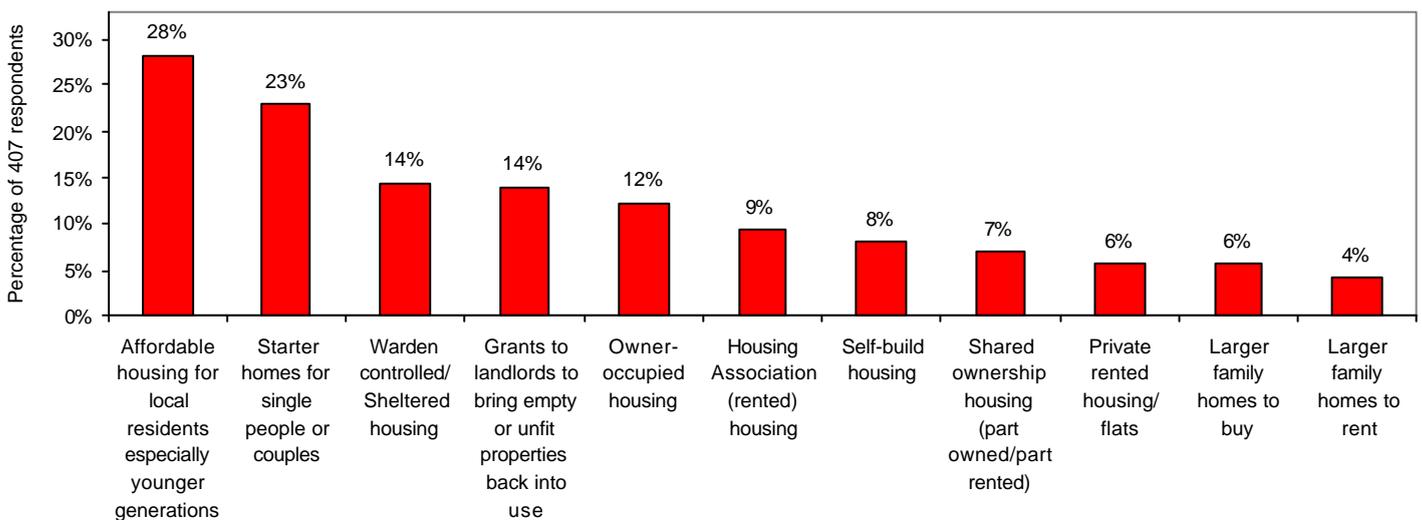


Comment

- Do you mean "should" or "can"?
- Littledean is and should stay a VILLAGE. Any building would make the village become a small town. What we need to do is improve on what we have and not make it bigger. The Forest has enough towns. We need to keep our village.
- I feel that although there has been substantial residential development in the village, which has allowed run-down properties to be turned into new and saleable properties for first time buyers, we may be in danger of being known as Belldean and not Littledean!

Question 38. If your answer to question 37 is yes, what type of housing should it be? (Please tick as many as you wish)

28% of all respondents ticked 'Affordable housing for local residents especially younger residents'. The least popular item was 'Larger family homes to rent'.



'Other – please specify'

- Nursing home particularly for elderly.
- Innovative energy efficient housing.
- Bungalows, 2 bedroom, near village for older people.
- Affordable first-time-buyer homes for families.
- Affordable housing for local residents in general.
- Infill homes in hamlets.
- Infill development.
- Not too many – they should be in small groups, preferably infill in the village plus one or two in each of the outlying hamlets, perhaps 20-30 in total.

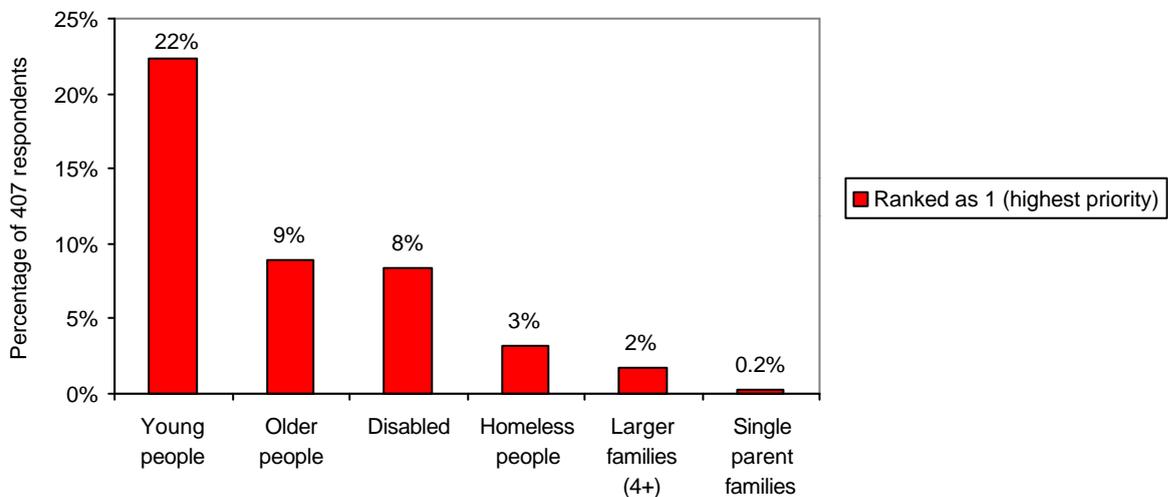
Comments

- All should be built with garage or car space to keep traffic parking off roads.
- Is this really what this questionnaire is about?

Question 39. Should house building be prioritised to meet the needs of the following? Please list the following 1 to 7 where 1 = highest priority and 7 = the lowest priority.

1. Highest priority

The proportion of all 407 respondents who ranked each option in the list as "1", i.e. highest priority, are shown in the chart below, with housing for young people clearly in first place.



2. Averaged priority ratings

42% of respondents gave numerical answers (1-7) to one or more of the options listed in the question. The results below are based on this group of respondents only.

The averaged priority ratings* are shown in the table, together with a priority ranking based on these ratings. For example, housing for young people is ranked as highest priority overall, with housing for older and disabled people in second and third places respectively.

	Averaged priority rating*	Priority ranking
Young people	2.0	1
Older people	2.7	2
Disabled	3.0	3
Homeless people	4.4	4
Single parent families	4.9	5
Larger families (4+)	5.0	6

* Averaged over all respondents who gave numerical answers to the question, and scaled to take into account different response rates to each option (the scaling only had a small effect and did not affect the overall order). Many respondents used some numbers more than once while not using others at all. Some gave an answer alongside some of the options but not alongside others. The full list of responses is given in Appendix B.

3. Comments

'Other – please specify'

- *New families.*
- *Prioritise villagers' housing needs before outsiders.*
- *Keeping families together.*
- *Equally fair distribution I suppose.*

Other comments

- *Allow property to be extended to accommodate needs of family.*
- *Low cost renting.*
- *No building!*
- *Don't turn Littledean into a town.*

Housing need survey

At this point in the questionnaire, respondents were informed:

"If you are in need of affordable housing please complete the blue housing need survey form within this questionnaire."

The housing need survey form was analysed by GRCC's Rural Housing Enabler and the results can be seen in Appendix B.

H) Leisure facilities/Clubs

Question 40. What clubs/activities do you or would you attend if they were provided? (Please tick as many as you wish)

The full results are shown in the table below, with film/theatre the most commonly ticked item.

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 407 respondents
Film/theatre	103	25%
Walking/Rambling	97	24%
Gardening	89	22%
Keep fit/Yoga	87	21%
Historical	87	21%
Day trips	81	20%
Art/Crafts	80	20%
Music	73	18%
Family activities	62	15%
Dances	56	14%
Drama	48	12%
Bingo	46	11%
Rugby	46	11%
Football	45	11%
Skittles	39	10%
Badminton	35	9%
Tennis	30	7%
Cricket	20	5%
Card games	18	4%

'Other – please specify'

- *Bowls*
- *Church*
- *Church activities*
- *Hunt Supporters Group*
- *Martial Arts*
- *Sport for women*
- *Tug of war*

Comments

- *Music: Classical*
- *Music: Serious classical*
- *Dances: Barn dances*
- *Only certain people are made welcome to these!*

Question 41. Would you be willing to help to run any of the above?

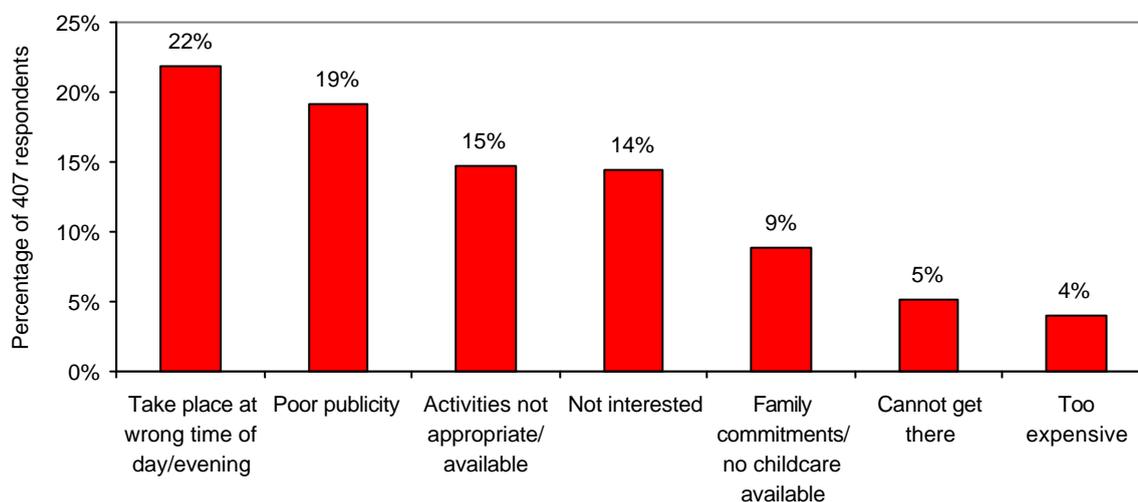
78 respondents (19% of 407) ticked 'Yes'. Between them, these respondents ticked all the clubs and activities in response to Q40.

Question 42. Would you be willing to help to run a Youth Club, Football Club or other Youth Activities?

47 respondents (12% of 407) ticked 'Yes'.

Question 43. What does or would prevent you from taking part in local activities/clubs? (Please tick as many as you wish)

The most common answer selected by respondents was 'wrong time of day'.



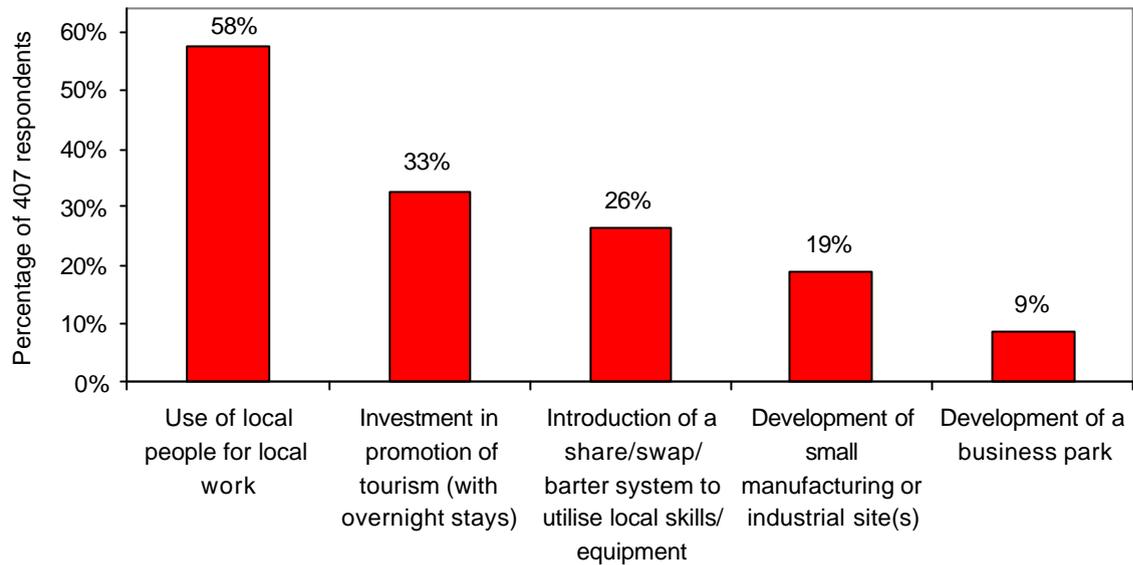
The most common answer given by those who ticked 'Other' was age, with the majority of those who gave this response aged 75+. The majority who said 'disability' were over 60 years of age.

'Other – please specify'

- Age x 22 (5% of 407)
- Disability x 12
- Work commitments x 12
- No time x 10
- Ill health x 8
- Involved in activities elsewhere x 6
- Other commitments x 6
- A-levels
- Not aware of what's on
- Too cliquey
- No support from village or parish council
- Would prefer activities with less "long term" commitment i.e. taster sessions or small group sessions at various levels from starter to more advanced.

I) Local economy/Business/Employment

Question 44. Would you like to see the following in Littledean: (Tick as many as you wish)



Comment

- *Sustainable development: Policies should be developed that stimulate local business and reduces the number of people leaving the parish to work. This would then help to generate increased revenue to the local community.*

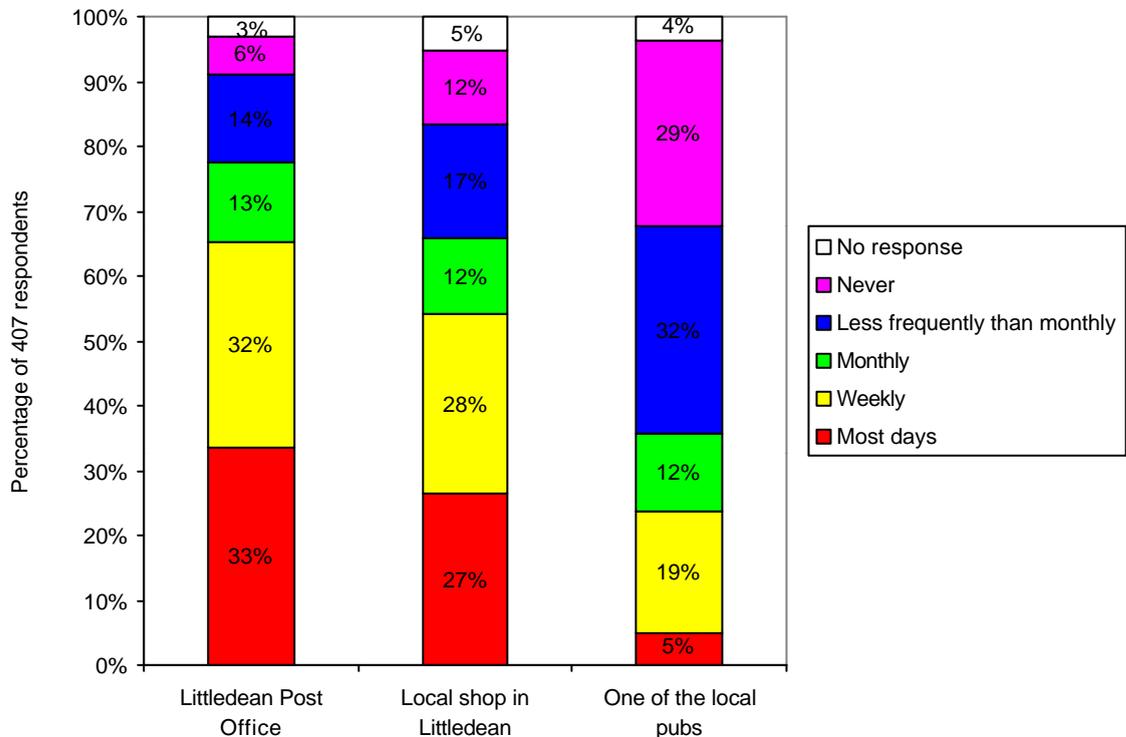
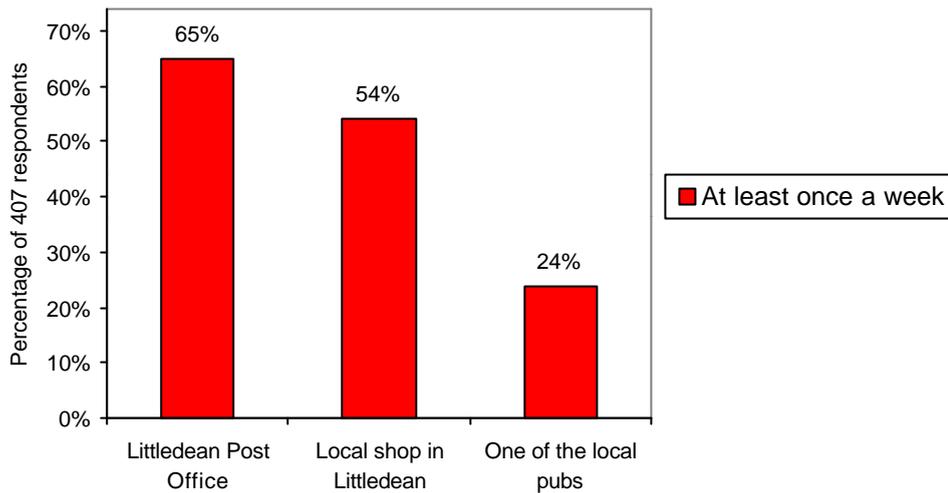
J) Local services

Question 45. How often do you use Littledean Post Office?

Question 46. How often do you use a local shop in Littledean?

Question 47. How often do you use one of our local pubs?

The first chart below shows the proportion of respondents who use these local services at least once a week (e.g. almost two thirds use the post office at least weekly). The full results are shown in the second chart.



Comment

- *I feel there needs to be more encouragement for small business in the village and to have support of residents i.e. a bakers, re-opening of Kings Head which was a focal part of older generation of the village. A revamp for village store.*

Question 48. How often do you use the Mobile Library?

29 respondents (7%) use the mobile library. Of these, 15 use it on a regular basis i.e. monthly or fortnightly.

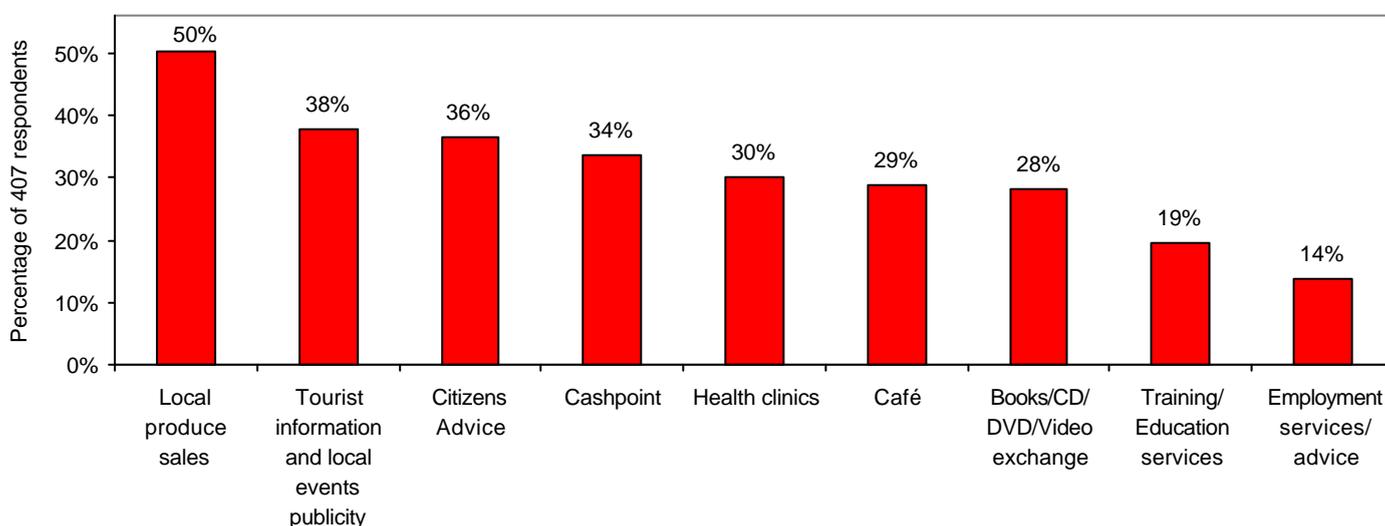
	Number of respondents	Percentage of 407 respondents
Fortnightly	12	3%
Monthly	3	1%
Less frequently than monthly	14	3%
Never	361	89%
No response	17	4%

Comments

- *The driver brings them in for me.*
- *Would like to know when it is around.*
- *Never, because it parks at top of hill (Oak Way) and many are unable to walk up with a walking stick.*

Question 49. Which services would you like to see included if a “village hub” was established (e.g. in a pub, The Community Centre or elsewhere)? (Tick as many as you wish)

Half the respondents (204 people) would like local produce sales.



Question 49 (continued)

'Other – please specify'

- *Chemist x 2*
- *Doctor*
- *Social services. Drug counselling*
- *Charity groups*
- *More village shops. Use the butchers 3-4 times a week*
- *Jumble/car boot*
- *Cashpoint ATM, not to have change!!*
- *Internet facility*
- *Broadband*
- *Bowls Club*
- *Public toilets. Existing toilets must be very expensive but if part of the village hub the cost of maintenance would decrease – and in evenings local pubs should allow the odd person in need of public loo to use pub.*
- *I do feel strongly about the possibility of a GP service at specified times for a "drop-in" basis i.e. Mon/Wed/Fri 10-12 for minor ailments or advice.*

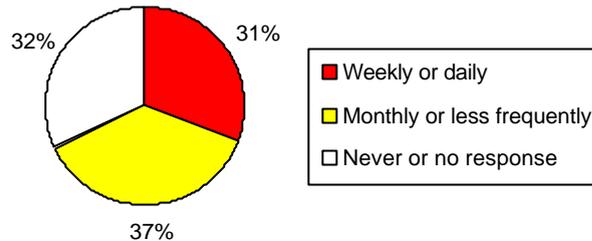
Comment

- *Littledean would be an excellent village to do this – big enough to make it work.*

K) Public transport

Question. 50. If a railway station at Elton was opened and more trains in peak hours were run to Gloucester, Cheltenham & Newport, how frequently would YOU use the train service?

31% of respondents would use the train service on a weekly or daily basis. 68% would use it altogether.



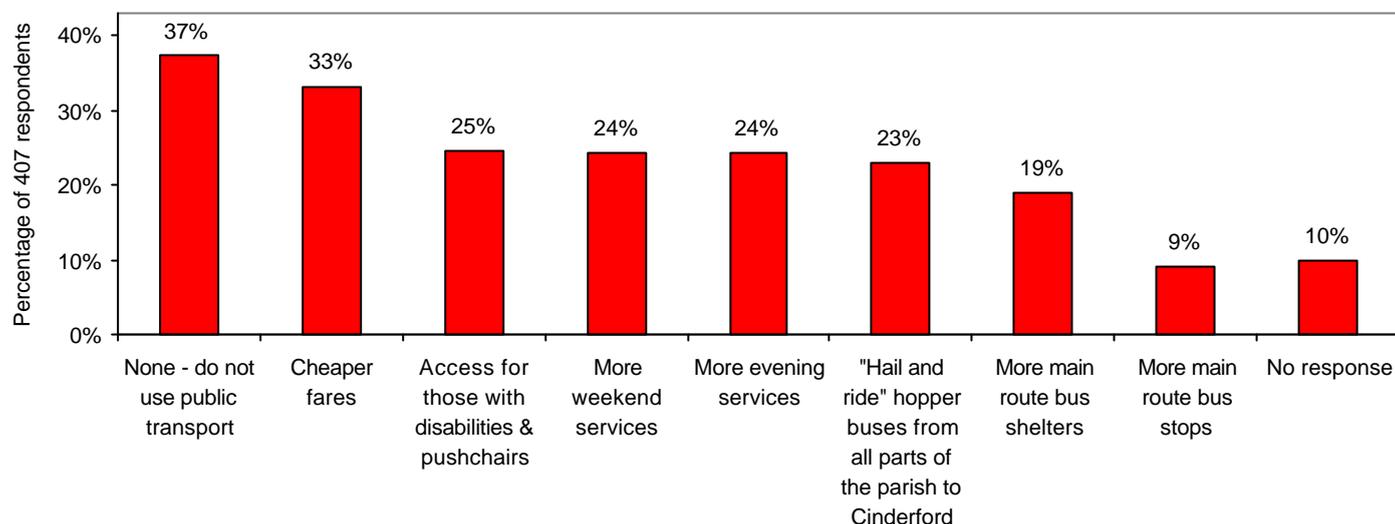
	Number of respondents	Percentage of 407 respondents
Most days	30	7%
Weekly	95	23%
Monthly	58	14%
Less frequently than monthly	94	23%
Never	94	23%
No response	36	9%
Total	407	100%

Comments

- Q50 asks about frequency of potential passengers without mentioning frequency of trains. Success of public transport dependent on frequency. This question is meaningless without accompanying timetable. There is nowhere to park car at Elton corner, therefore No. 31 bus must connect direct with train to Gloucester; also with train to Chepstow; and this combined train-bus service must run at least every fifteen minutes.
- A railway station at Elton or Newnham should be seen as a priority. Newnham would be a more sustainable location due to being a centre of population.
- I would have to know what the parking facilities would be – I wouldn't want a long ugly car park along the A48.
- It would be far too expensive.
- Never – start work Glos 0600.
- We are deeply suspicious that this is just a way of sneaking in a housing development through the back door. Just a station would be fine but is that ever going to happen?

Question 51. Which of the following improvements in the public bus service would you like to see? (Please tick as many as you wish)

56% of respondents ticked one or more of the options on how the bus service could be improved, while 37% ticked 'None – do not use public transport'. The full results are shown in the chart below, with 'Cheaper fares' the most commonly requested improvement.

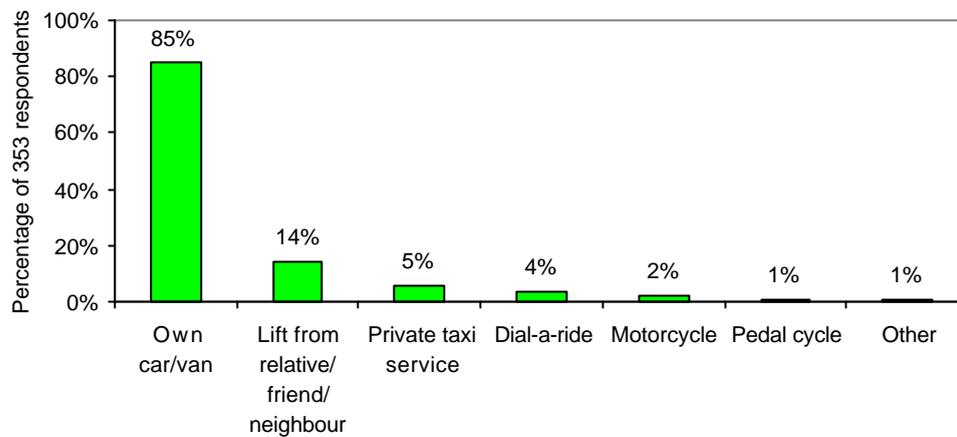


Comments

- *Hopper buses: Including Popes Hill*
- *More services in general.*
- *More services during day.*
- *More routes, more frequent buses.*
- *At the moment the 31 route/Stagecoach has a monopoly so more frequency/additional service to 31 route.*
- *More frequent service during rush hours.*
- *Saturday night buses to and from Glos!*
- *We need a Sunday bus service. Afternoon service would be acceptable. Littledean is cut off on Sundays for people without their own transport. There was a time when we had this service! Some years ago. If we need to go to Gloucester the nearest point for a bus is Cinderford or Elton Corner. Yewtree Brake Cemetery is awkward to visit too.*
- *Q51 incomplete. What about buses from Littledean to Lydney, Lydbrook, Yorkley, Taynton, Tibberton? They don't even go to Soudley or Blaisdon. There are too many cars on the roads because buses do not provide sufficient service. If they did they would never make a profit. They must therefore be financed by the treasury.*
- *Public transport does not allow dogs to travel. Older generation and many other members of the area would love to travel with their pets but are unable to do so.*
- *The pricing structure of public transport is bizarre and mitigated against short journey taking, which in rural areas is an essential everyday necessity.*
- *One of the biggest drawbacks of doing business in the parish is the awful rail service and lack of direct buses to Bristol and Newport operating at speed and times to allow a full working day. Especially as the A48 is now gridlocked of a morning at Minsterworth.*
- *Didn't know there was any.*

Question 52. If you do not use standard public transport what are your main means of transport? (Tick as many as you wish)

353 of the 407 respondents (87%) answered this question. The answers of these 353 people are shown below; most use their own car or van.



'Other – please specify'

- *Walking x 3*

L) Roads/Traffic

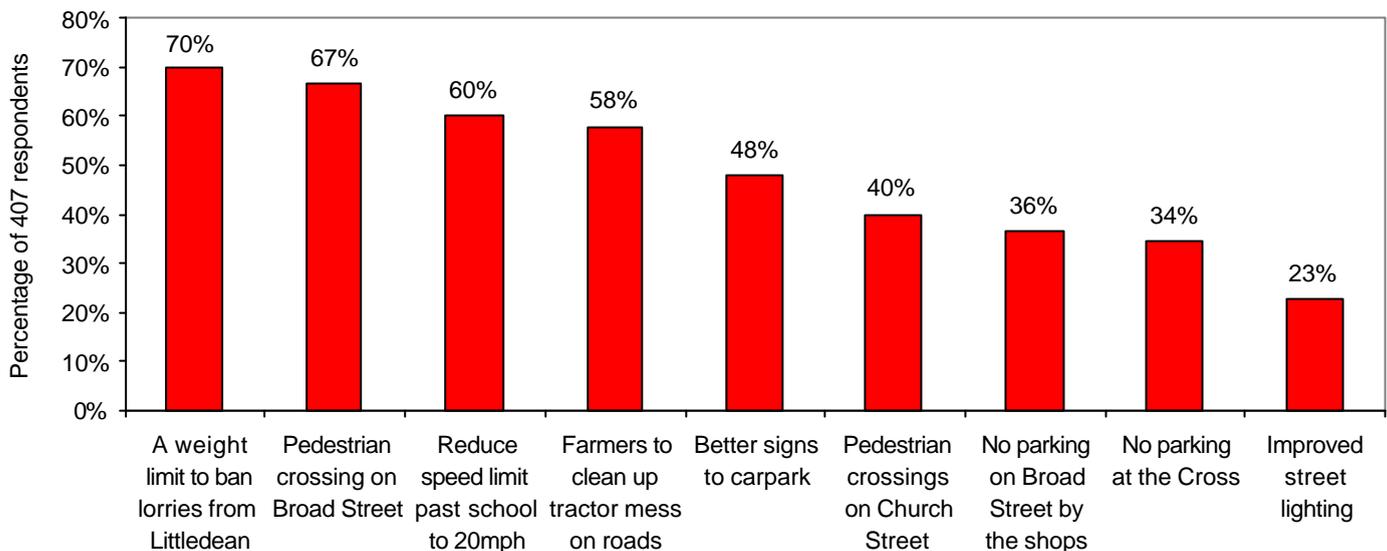
Question 53. Which of the following changes do you agree with? (Tick as many as you wish)

The most popular changes would be:

1. A weight limit to ban lorries from Littledean.
2. A pedestrian crossing on Broad Street.

The least popular would be:

1. Improved street lighting.
2. No parking at The Cross and on Broad Street by the shops.



Comments made by respondents regarding the above items are shown below:

Weight limit

- *Perhaps narrow the road at certain positions to stop heavy vehicles entering the village at all!!!*

Pedestrian crossing on Broad Street

- *Zebra crossing Broad Street urgent. Has been asked for before.*

Tractor mess on roads

- *Also horse riders to clear up horse mess [x 2 respondents]*

No parking on Broad Street

- *Post office and shop would suffer by losing trade.*
- *If no parking in Broad Street, it would be damaging for Post Office and shop*

Improved street lighting

- *By car park*
- *Improve street lighting by the car park. There is a danger someone will trip on the pavement there as the street light does not show up the curb into the car park from the main pavement.*
- *On Popes Hill.*
- *Insufficient lighting in Folders.*
- *Greenway must be one of the few hamlets with no street lighting except one light at Dentons Corner.*
- *The lanes and roads in general are very poorly lit*
- *Street lights on main road too high. Better illumination if lower.*

Miscellaneous

- *Do not agree with any of these!*

Respondents were also able to tick 'Other – please specify' and add their own suggestions. These are listed below (where they have been categorised).

Enforce speed limits

- *Enforcement of speed limits entering and leaving village.*
- *Enforced 30mph speed limit throughout the village.*
- *Speed restriction enforced.*

Reduce speed limits

- *Reduce speed limit to 20mph all through village.*
- *Reduce speed limit through village*
- *20mph Silver Street*
- *Reduce speed limit on Broad Street to 20mph.*
- *Speed limit at Popes Hill*

Speed cameras

- *x 3: approach to Littledean from Cinderford, Silver Street (top), below school.*
- *Zero tolerance speed cameras – Broad Street & Newnham Road.*
- *Speed camera Pleasant Stile.*
- *Speed camera Silver Street.*
- *Speed camera by church*

Speed bumps/ramps

- *Speed ramps either side of school*
- *Ramps in Silver Street for traffic calming*
- *Speed bumps*
- *No road humps*

Other comments on speeding

- *Speeding in Silver Street is getting worse. Something needs to be done before an accident occurs.*
- *Having cars parked in the road is actually quite good for making drivers slow down – not an ideal situation but that's the way it is. Take parked cars away and some people will go through at 40mph. Putting 20mph limit by the school won't have any effect on people who drive too fast anyway.*

- *Like to see a reduction in speed using the Ruffitt/Reddings Lane as a short-cut to/from Cinderford.*
- *This may need to be addressed by FoDDC – but the roads around our area (5 miles circa Littledean) seem to be becoming increasingly dangerous, drivers seem to drive too fast, the death and accident toll is dreadful in our area.*

Parking

- *More parking restrictions.*
- *No parking at end of Folders Lane as it stops access.*
- *Parking to be sorted out in Silver Street.*
- *More car parks needed.*

Yellow lines

- *Yellow lines should extend to and pass new burial ground.*
- *Double yellow lines or "keep clear" signs at bottom of Folders Lane and in Grange Lane.*

Signs

- *Better signs for mini roundabout – we are frequently cut across turning from Broad Street into Silver Street.*
- *Stop sign at mini roundabout from A48 access road.*
- *Lit up speed signs (wind/solar) for approaching traffic – similar to ones in Westbury.*

By-pass

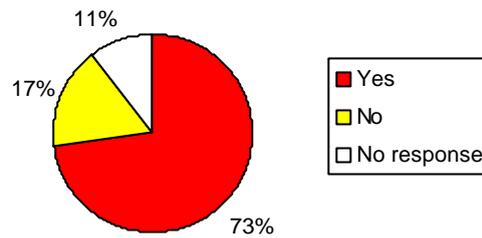
- *By-pass [x 3 respondents]*
- *Build a by-pass from the guest house to the corner by the Greenway junction. Then fill in between the new road and the village with new housing. This would then allow Church St/Broad St to be semi-pedestrianised with on-street parking.*

Miscellaneous

- *More bollards along Broad Street – to stop heavy vehicles etc. from mounting the paths.*
- *Solve Grange Lane/Broad Street traffic problem.*
- *Better pavement width down to the school.*
- *Would like to know why our road (Dean Crescent) was not resurfaced when every other road in the village was.*
- *Repair roads on Popes Hill.*
- *After cutting grass at back of school car park, clear grass up instead of it being left in kerbs.*
- *Litter bin in layby below church.*
- *Move skateboard ramp into the council estate.*

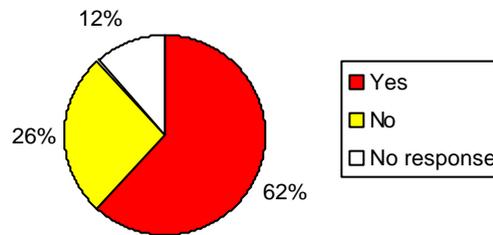
Question 54. Do you think that speed checks should be carried out regularly?

Almost three quarters of respondents think that speed checks should be carried out regularly.



Question 55. Do you support a speed camera in Broad Street?

The majority of respondents support a speed camera in Broad Street.



Comment

- *To be situated outside Littledean House Hotel – URC chapel – Kings Head – Church – Jail – Dentons Corner.*
- *The speed of traffic accelerating down hill past the church and school is extremely dangerous.*

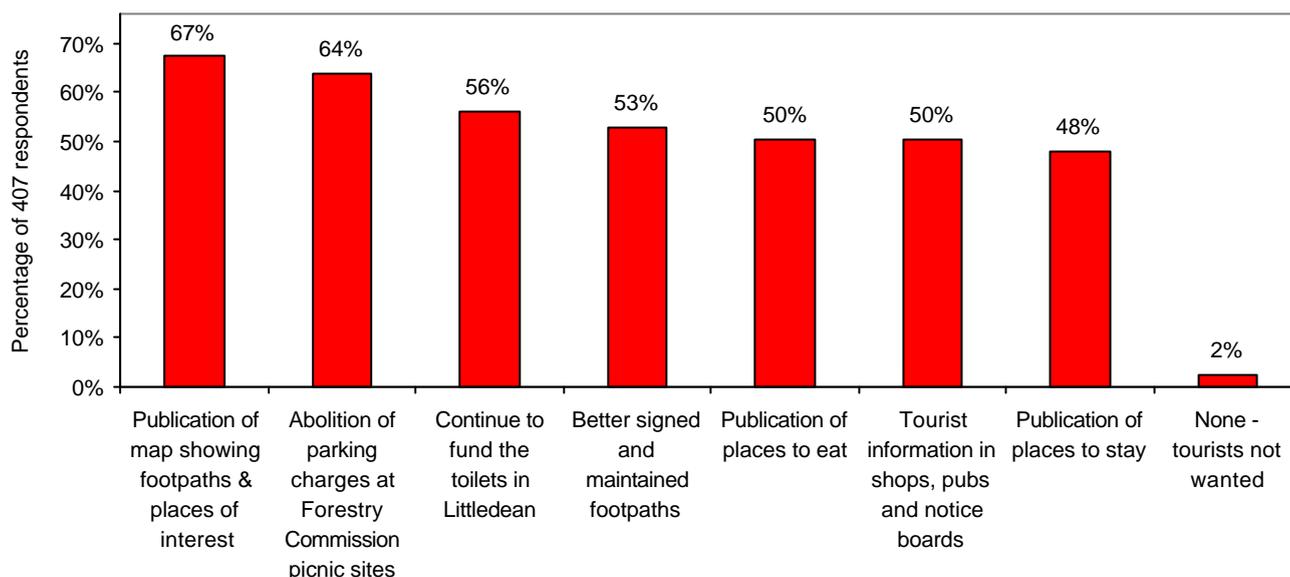
M) Tourism

Question 56. Which of the following should be developed to increase tourism? (Please tick as many as you wish)

The suggestions shown in the questionnaire which were ticked by the highest proportion of respondents were:

1. Publication of a map showing footpaths and places of interest.
2. Abolition of parking charges at Forestry Commission picnic sites.

Only 2% of respondents said that tourists were not wanted.



Comments

Map

- *There is no Littledean map or info anywhere. Information leaflet. History group.*

Picnic sites

- *Free parking at picnic sites for Forest people.*
- *All locals should have free passes to picnic sites as we pay rates.*

Toilets

- *Improve toilets*
- *Didn't know there are toilets in Littledean.*
- *Not really viable to maintain public toilets in separate location in village – existing toilets must be very expensive but if part of the village hub the cost of maintenance would decrease – and in evenings local pubs should allow the odd person in need of public loo to use pub.*

Reservations about tourism

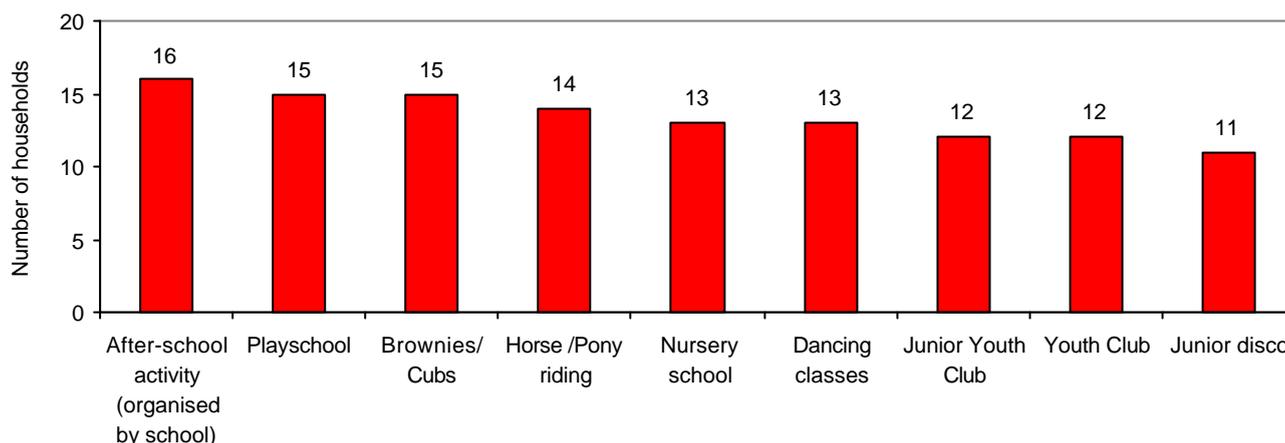
- *Tourists not wanted because of traffic.*
- *Tourists should help the local economy. We pay for outsiders to come and rip up our paths in the woods. It's not fair to us.*

N) Parents of children

The questions in this section required a overall household response rather than an individual response and were intended for completion by parents.

Question 57. If you are a parent or guardian, do your children attend or would they attend any of the following if available?

37 households ticked one or more of the items listed in the questionnaire or added their own suggestions.



'Other – please specify'

- Football/rugby skills
- Older children's sport scheme/club 12+

Comments

- *I would love for these things to be available for my children. What a fabulous way to cut child obesity.*
- *The closure of Littledean riding school would be detrimental to the village. It currently attracts tourists and visitors and provides a healthy outdoor pursuit for younger people.*
- *There has not been a playschool in the village for years. This isolates many young families especially those without transport or more than one child, as this makes public transport almost impossible to access. Consequently, these young mums and their children spend a long time alone, the children often find it hard to mix with their peers in school because they have not learnt to socialise as toddlers. The children are our future, if we do not look after them and respect them, how can we expect the same in return.*
- *I think too much attention to pensioners is being made – yes there are many in the village but provisions and services for them are in place! They do after all have first dibs on the community centre!! What about our poor primary and pre-school children. They can't skateboard or "hang out" in the shelter and the park is a waste of our resources. There is ample land in Littledean to put safe playgrounds, sports equipment or a centre aimed at families, children, learning & sport. That way the community centre can remain available to the pensioners, the mouse society and ballroom adult dance classes that have prioritised booking at new year etc.*

Question 58. Do you support the continued provision of the adventure playground behind the school for children under the age of 12 years?

The majority of parents answered the question support the continued provision of the adventure playground.

	Number of households
Yes	49
No	3

Comments

- *How would the adventure playground be tailored to under 12's and not vandalised by older children?*
- *It is poorly equipped and unsafe and the caretaker chooses opening times that are convenient to her. Not ever open on Sunday afternoon!*

Question 59. Would you be prepared to help organising any of the activities above and/or supervise the playground on a rota basis?

12 people indicated they would be prepared to help on a rota basis. 7 of these gave their contact details at the end of the questionnaire.

O) Further comments

Question 60. Have you any other comments, views or issues you would like to see included in the plan, which have not been mentioned above?

Comments which relate to issues covered in the questionnaire have been included under the relevant question headings earlier in the report. All other comments are shown below.

Farming

- Could the Plan in both short and long term contain some means to preserve and encourage agricultural farming interests in the Littledean area, once so rich in that respect. Grazing stock and crop production are surely so much more appropriate to the village than ugly, unwanted and so-called inexpensive housing scarring the landscape.
- More rigorous control on activities by "diversifying" farmers which lead to unacceptable noise/pollution levels. Initial planning is often only the start point – expansion/change of activities seems inevitable and not preventable.

Maintenance

- School field to be better maintained by Oakway fencing, long overdue, letters sent to governors and head teacher.
- Why don't we get anything on Popes Hill? No road upkeep, no road sweeping, poor quality hedge cutting.

Footpaths

- Stop wasting tax payers' money on footpaths when there are two within 100m of each other going to the same place. One of these footpaths is so close to my property I feel it is a security threat.

Conservation/heritage

- The conservation section doesn't ask any questions about conservation.
- Bring back the old forge at Littledean.

Alternative energy

- Energy: Think globally and act locally. What can we do in the parish? Can we generate our own electricity by purchasing a wind turbine, or small scale hydro? This will become a hot political issue in the near future.

Church

- Most surprised that this survey does not include the church and its activities. The church is in desperate need of support financially and could be helped along by including a write-up in the parish magazine. It would also be an added bonus and maybe incentive to others if a few councillors attended services on a more regular basis from non-existent.

Urbanisation

- We must ensure Littledean does not become too urban.

Parish Council

- I have had no faith in the parish council for years. It just seems to be the same people who vote each other in. Years ago we formed a youth club to help get the children off the streets because of a supposed drug problem. We did it without any help/support from the parish council. What a waste of money putting milk churns on the cross – £6000? Would it have been better having a road crossing? Too late when a child has been killed. I suggested having a skate board ramp at the community centre incorporating the car park but was told the village did not want one then later someone else suggested it and it was done at the rec.
- Younger people needed on local council.

Forum to discuss ideas

- Some way of local people meeting to discuss ideas for village on a regular basis – big response to save the car park. Try regular monthly 'open evenings' at hall – maybe focusing on a different subject e.g. activities for children & young people would bring in children & young people and maybe some adults.

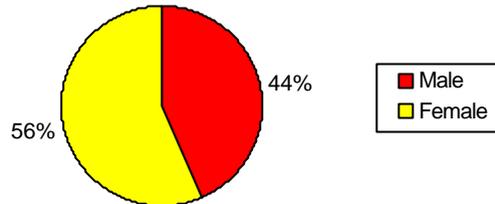
The survey

- Will this information be used to find extra services at the additional cost to the council tax, which is far too high anyway.
- We would have preferred cheaper parish council tax (up 33%) and no questionnaire or maps, which must have been expensive to produce.
- A collection point for this questionnaire at a central point in the village would be more appropriate than 47p a time postage!
- How much money has been spent on this waste of time, money which could have been put to better use in the parish. Comments in next newsletter maybe!
- Very well compiled.

Section 2: About you (optional)

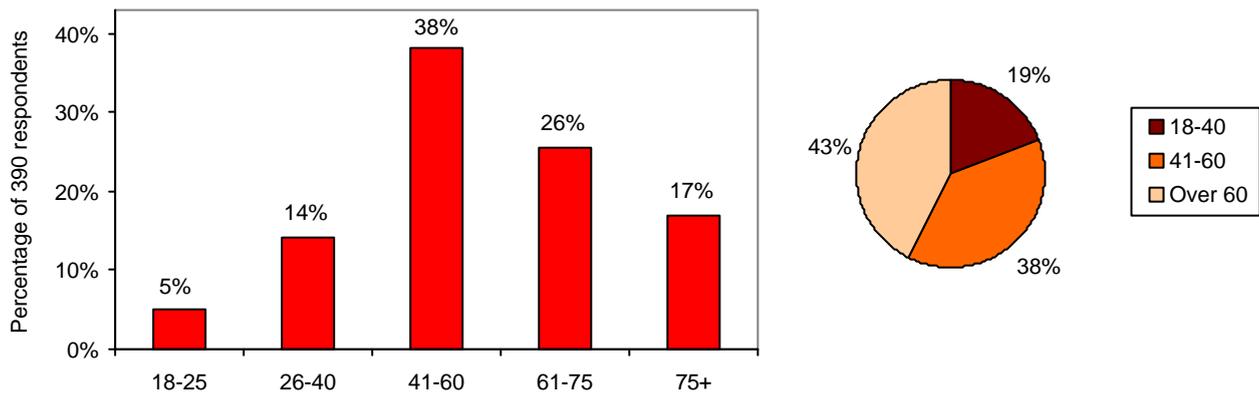
In this section, percentages are based on the number of respondents who answered the questions and not on the total number of respondents to the questionnaire. The response rate to each question is shown alongside the question heading.

Question 1: Are you? [95% response]



Question 2. In which age group do you belong? [96% response]

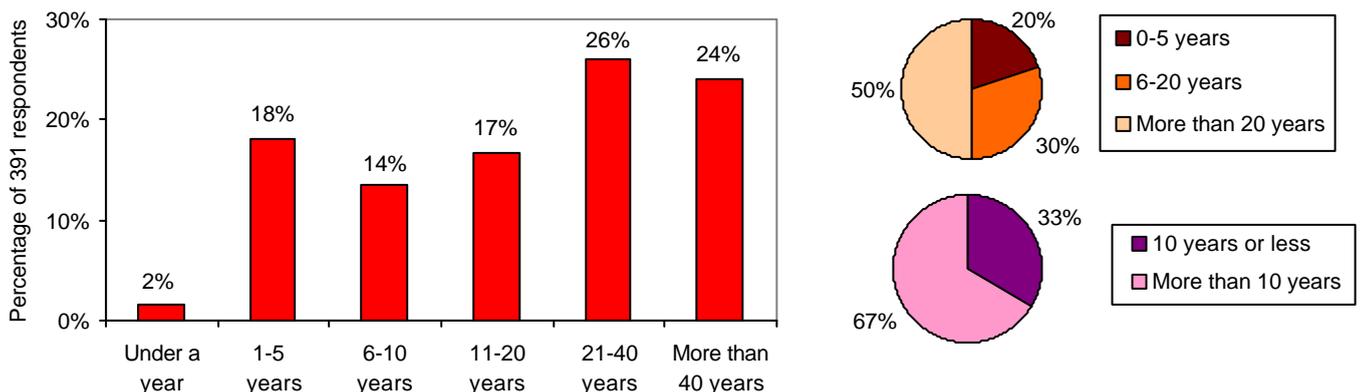
The most common age group among respondents is 41-60. The pie chart combines some of the categories and shows that 43% of respondents are over 60 years of age.



Question 3. How long have you lived in the parish? [96% response]

The various categories have been combined in different ways to form the two pie charts, which show that:

- Half the respondents have lived in the parish for more than 20 years.
- Two thirds of the respondents have lived in the parish for more than 10 years.



Section 3: About your home (optional)

The questions in this section required a overall household response rather than an individual response. Percentages are based on the number of households who answered the questions and not on the total number of households who returned a questionnaire. The response rate to each question is shown alongside the question heading.

Question 1. Where do you live? [96% response]

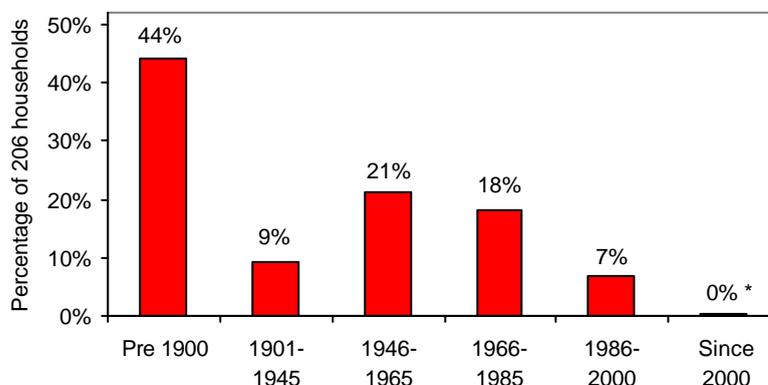
Around 6 in 10 of the households are in Littledean village with the remainder living in the surrounding hamlets.

	Number of households	Percentage of 228 households
Littledean	141	62%
Popes Hill	25	11%
Ruffit & Collafield	19	8%
Green Bottom	8	3%
Blaize Bailey	4	2%
Pleasant Stile	5	2%
Shapridge	2	1%
Other*	25	11%

*Other

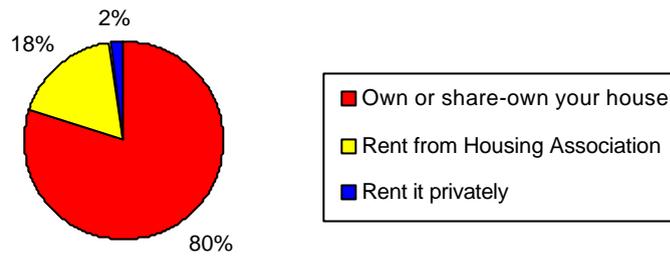
- Littledean Hill Road x 4
- Edge Hill x 2
- Greenway x 2
- Callamore x 1
- Redding Lane x 1
- Silver Street x 1
- [14 of those who ticked 'Other' did not specify where they live]

Question 2. When was your house first built (ignore later alterations)? [87% response]



* Only one household's property was built post-2000. This equates to 0.49%, which rounded to a whole number is 0%.

Question 3. Do you? [90% response]



Question 4. Is your home in the parish your main residence? [95% response]

All those who answered the question ticked 'Yes'.

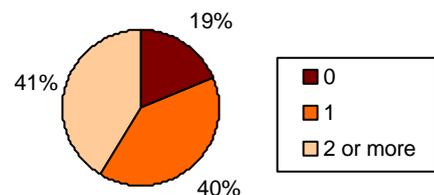
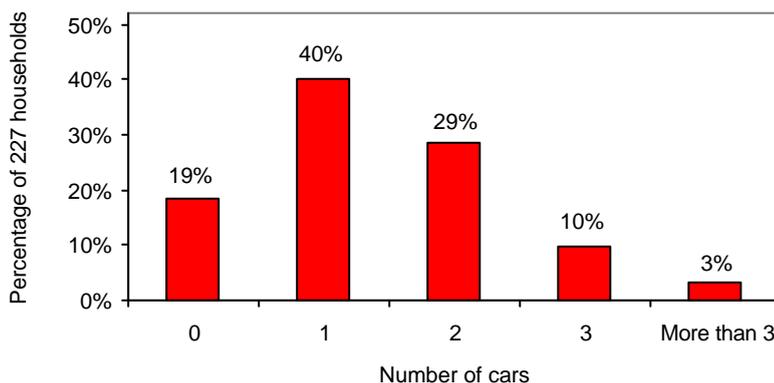
Question 5. Do you own more than one residence in the parish? [92% response]

5 households (2%) ticked 'Yes'.

Question 6. How many cars/vans are there in your household? [95% response]

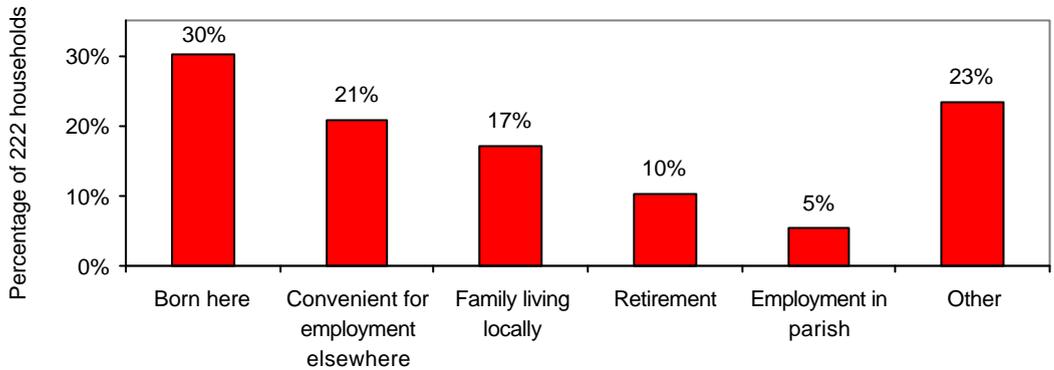
42 households, roughly 2 in 10, have no cars or vans. The remaining households are almost equally divided into those with one and those with two or more.

In two thirds of the households without a car or van, the respondent(s) are aged 75+. In over 90% of the households without a car or van, only one person completed the questionnaire, i.e. they may be single-person households.



Question 7. What brought you/your family to live here? [93% response]

The most common answer was 'Born here'. Employment in the parish brought 12 households (5%) to live in Littledean.



***Other**

Most of those who ticked 'Other' did not specify a reason. Answers given by those who did included roots in the Forest, marriage and liking the area.

Question 8. Is any part of your home used for business? [93% response]

18 households (8%) ticked 'Yes'.

Contact details & volunteering

On the final page of the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their contact details (e.g. if they wished to receive an answer to a particular point) and to indicate if they would be interested in the following:

"If you would be willing to help by assisting with or joining a work part involved with any topic raised in the questionnaire please put your details here indicating what you would be willing to help with."

"Would you be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor at the next election in 2007?"

The results are shown below:

1. Contact details

40% of respondents provided at least one piece of contact information (i.e. address, telephone or e-mail).

2. Working party

16 respondents would be willing to assist with or join a working party. 12 of these gave further details, as shown below:

- Advertising
- All activities aimed at children and maintenance of Folders/Community areas, plans for community events.
- Environment.
- Footpath clearing, promotion of tourism.
- Footpaths, part of work party to improve village environment.
- History/tourism. Hobbies/craft classes. Any clean-up schemes. *Some* fundraising.
- Instructing – craft classes – all ages.
- Most things, nothing with heavy lifting.
- Road traffic problems.
- Street cleaning, litter picking.
- Sport related items or walking items. Weekends better suited.
- Yes – carnival/youth club/and other.

3. Parish Councillor

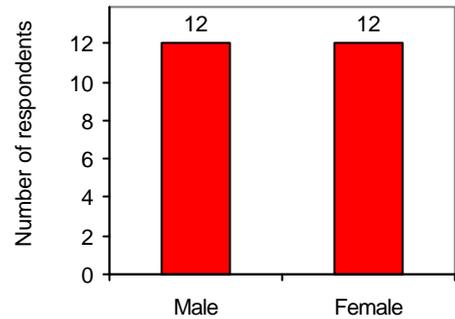
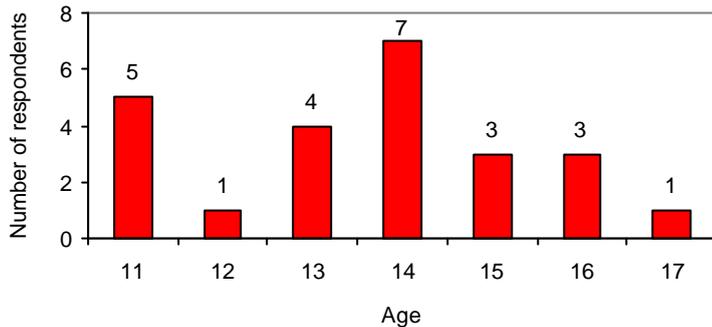
4 respondents would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor at the next election in 2007. A further 3 wrote 'Maybe' or 'Not sure', one adding 'Would need more information'.

Youth Questionnaire

As mentioned in the introduction, 17 young people's questionnaires were completed, These contained the responses of 24 young people aged 11-17.

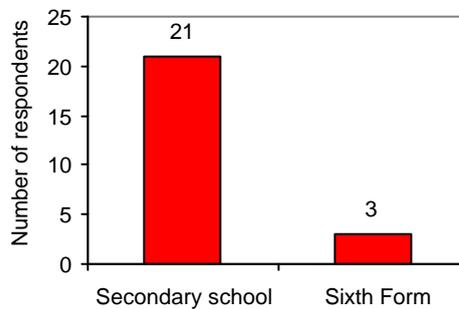
Question 1. How old are you?
Question 2. Are you male or female?

Exactly half the respondents were male and half female. The most common age was 14.



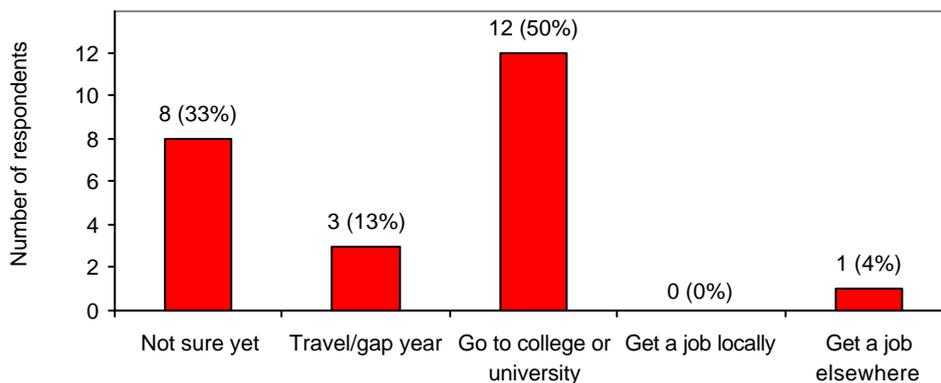
Question 3. What best describes what you do?

All the respondents are at secondary school or sixth form.



Question 4. If you are currently in education, what would you like to do in the future?

Half would like to go to college or university. A third are undecided. None would like to get a job locally.



Question 5. What do you do in your spare time at home? (Please tick as many as you wish)

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 24 respondents
Visit friends or have friends around	22	92%
Watch TV/DVD/Video	20	83%
Listen to music radio/CD	18	75%
Play computer or console games	17	71%
Hobbies	15	63%
Surf the internet	14	58%
Reading	13	54%
Playing a musical instrument	12	50%
Handicrafts	3	13%

'Other – please specify'

- *Rugby x 2*
- *Acting*
- *Dance*
- *Physical activities*
- *Fishing*

Question 6. What do you do in your spare time out of doors? (Please tick as many as you wish)

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 24 respondents
Activities with friends (walk, football etc.)	20	83%
Meet friends in village/fields etc.	9	38%
Out on bikes	8	33%
Skateboard, roller-skates or blades	4	17%
Horse riding	4	17%
Out in cars, on motorbikes or scooters	2	8%

'Other – please specify'

- *Dancing*
- *Fishing*
- *Meet friends out of village*
- *Playing, making dens, exploring*
- *Rugby*
- *Work*

Question 7. What leisure activities do you or would you get involved in if they were provided? (Please tick as many as you wish)

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 24 respondents
Cinema/Theatre	15	63%
Canoeing	14	58%
Camping	12	50%
Music (listening to)(in a band) etc	12	50%
Archery	11	46%
Baseball/rounders	11	46%
Basketball/netball	11	46%
Rugby	11	46%
Swimming	11	46%
Badminton	10	42%
Cycling	10	42%
Dancing	10	42%
Drama/acting	10	42%
Tennis	10	42%
Martial Arts	9	38%
Hobbies or crafts	9	38%
Football	8	33%
Gymnastics	8	33%
Table Tennis	8	33%
Computer skills	7	29%
Squash	7	29%
Arts/crafts	6	25%
Hockey	6	25%
Running	6	25%
Church Events	5	21%
Environment/Conservation/Heritage	5	21%
Fishing	5	21%
Shooting	5	21%
Skating/blading	5	21%
Cricket	4	17%
Skittles	4	17%
Snooker/billiards	4	17%
Boxing/wrestling	3	13%
Guides/Scouts/Woodcraft Folk	3	13%

'Other – please specify'

- *Hiking*
- *Shopping*

**Question 8. Where do you currently go to for these activities or for entertainment?
(Please tick as many as you wish)**

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 24 respondents
Cinderford	17	71%
Gloucester	15	63%
Elsewhere within Forest of Dean*	15	63%
Cheltenham	6	25%
Bristol	3	13%
Littledean	2	8%
Chepstow/Newport/Cardiff	1	4%
Ross	1	4%
Monmouth	0	0%

** In the questionnaire, this was placed at the bottom of the list and was intended to cover anywhere in the Forest of Dean not mentioned in the remainder of the list.*

Question 9. How do you get there? (Please tick as many as you wish)

Most have lifts with parents. 29% use public transport.

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 24 respondents
Lift from parents	21	88%
Lift from friends or friends of parents	10	42%
Public transport	7	29%
Walk	6	25%
Cycle	5	21%
Coach or organised transport	2	8%

Question 10. What does or would prevent you from taking part in local activities or clubs? (Please tick as many as you wish)

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 24 respondents
Take place at wrong time	11	46%
Too expensive	11	46%
Unsafe/wrong crowd	11	46%
Cannot get there	6	25%
Activities not suitable	5	21%
Don't want to	2	8%

'Other – please specify'

- *Not many activities around*
- *Don't know about them*

**Question 11. If organised trips were arranged, where would you like to go to?
(Please tick as many as you wish)**

	Number of respondents	Percentage of 24 respondents
Theme park	20	83%
Concert	15	63%
Major sports event	12	50%
Shopping mall	11	46%
Walk/ride	10	42%
Coast	7	29%
Fashion Event	6	25%
Computer Show	6	25%
Farm park	5	21%
Museum/place of historic interest	5	21%
Cross Channel	5	21%

'Other – please specify'

- *Skate parks*

Question 12. What facilities would you like to have in the village? (Tick as many as you wish)

	Number of respondents	% of 24 respondents
Youth café/coffee bar	15	63%
Music venue/live events	13	54%
Better equipped recreation ground or other improvements	13	54%
Bike track	11	46%
Internet café	10	42%
Broadband connection	8	33%
A place to go to where we can have our say and where people listen	7	29%
Youth holiday scheme in school holidays	5	21%
A youth council	5	21%
Further learning centre	3	13%

'Other – please specify'

- *Village hall*
- *More shops e.g. sweets and also more heritage e.g. museum*

If you would be interested in participating on a "Youth Council" please put your name here.

Only one young person (an 11-year-old male) indicated they would be interested in this.

Appendix A

Full results for Question 39 (household questionnaire)

The full results for Question 39 are shown in the table below. For example, 27 people gave an answer of "3" against the option "Older people". The table also shows that a small number of people *ticked* the boxes rather than giving a numerical answer. These have not been included in the analysis. The number of people who did not respond is also shown, in the row labelled 'Blank'.

Response	Young people	Older people	Disabled	Homeless people	Single parent families	Larger families (4+)
1	91	36	34	13	1	7
2	23	51	28	15	10	8
3	15	27	34	17	26	17
4	10	21	26	32	24	19
5	6	6	18	21	34	40
6	5	8	8	31	32	38
7	5	2	1	5	4	8
Total 1-7	155	151	149	134	131	137
Tick	25	26	21	8	7	8
Blank	227	230	237	265	269	262
Grand total	407	407	407	407	407	407

The response rates (in terms of those who gave a numerical answer) are given below:

	Young people	Older people	Disabled	Homeless people	Single parent families	Larger families (4+)
% 1-7	38%	37%	37%	33%	32%	34%

Appendix B

Littledean Housing Needs Survey

April 2005

A summary of the results of a housing needs survey carried out by the parish council of Littledean, as part of their Parish Plan survey, with the assistance of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, in April 2005.

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April 2005



INTRODUCTION

In early 2005 Littledean's Parish Plan group developed a household survey to find out the views of residents. This will guide the development of their Parish Plan that will set out a vision for the future of the parish and identify actions needed to tackle local issues.

In March 2005 questionnaires were delivered to every household in the parish (a total of 547). During April 2005, a total of 238 Parish Plan questionnaires were returned, giving a response rate of 44%. A total of 15 housing needs surveys were also returned (2.7% of the total). This report presents the findings of the housing needs survey, as well as the responses to the three questions related to housing in the main questionnaire.

The first part of the report gives a summary of the findings of the survey including the level of housing need and recommendations to the parish. It then gives a brief demographic profile of the parish of Littledean and provides the full results of the survey. The final part of the report lists the comments that were given by survey respondents.

The project is supported by the Countryside Agency, who have provided funding, and Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, who provide continuing support and advice.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General housing need

There are a total of 15 households who expressed a wish for alternative accommodation in the parish of Littledean. Some of these are considered to be in need of affordable housing, whilst some have sufficient means to satisfy their housing need in other ways. Some respondents did not give enough information for any conclusion to be made about their housing need.

Affordable housing need

Affordable housing is defined as *'housing that is available for people whose income denies them the opportunity to purchase or rent houses available on the open market'*. Affordable housing includes rented housing, shared ownership (part-buy, part-rent), low cost market housing and sheltered accommodation for the elderly. This survey enquired about needs for each of these tenures.

Housing need was determined by the ability of the individual to raise a sufficient mortgage to buy a property in the area, based on financial information given on the questionnaire.

Of those who specified they required alternative accommodation, **7 are considered as being in need of affordable housing** as they do not have sufficient means to satisfy their needs on the open market. All of these households have a strong local connection to the parish. Three households are young people wishing to leave the parental home and set up a home of their own. Two households are existing housing association tenants, meaning that there is scope for providing accommodation through transfers.

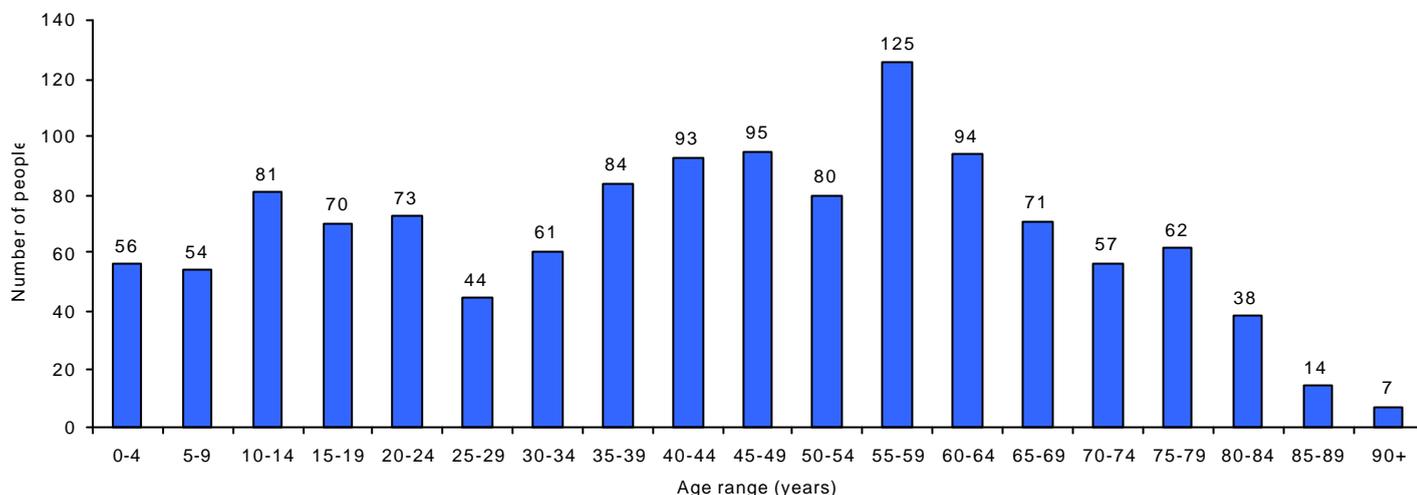
Household type	Connection to parish	Reasons for moving	Current tenure	Required tenure	Required property
Newly forming	Born / grew up in parish	Relationship ending	Own house	Private rented	Bungalow
Existing	Born / grew up in parish; live in Littledean now; close family ties	Setting up home with partner; present home too expensive	Private rented	Low cost market housing; housing association rented	House
Newly forming	Born / grew up in parish; live in Littledean now	Leaving parental home	Live with parents	Private rented; housing association rented	House or flat
Newly forming	Live in Littledean now	Leaving parental home; to get on the housing ladder	Live with parents	Low cost market housing	House or bungalow
Existing	Born / grew up in parish	Setting up home with partner; present home too expensive	Private rented	Low cost market housing	House
Existing	Live in Littledean now	Present home too small	Own home	Low cost market housing	House
Newly forming	Close family ties	To remain close to elderly parents	Live with parents	Housing association rented	House
Total	7				

Littledean

Local governance: The parish is in the Littledean and Ruspidge ward, in the Forest of Dean district of the county of Gloucestershire.

Population: 1258

Age range: (mid-2002 estimate). *Data from Gloucestershire County Council.*



People per house: 2.30 (an averaged calculated from the total population in 547 properties)

Index of deprivation: The new indices of deprivation (2004) are based on Super Output Areas. There are two SOA's in this area: Littledean and Ruspidge 1 is ranked 18,153 out of 32,482 (where one is most deprived), and Littledean and Ruspidge 2 is ranked 14,367. The figures shows that the first SOA is in the top 44% of least deprived areas, and the second SOA is in the top 56% of least deprived areas in England.

Data from Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Indices of Deprivation 2004.

Housing Association stock:

Forest of Dean Housing

22 one bed bungalows, 8 two bed bungalows, 18 two bed houses, 40 three bed houses, 2 two bed first floor flats, 2 two bed ground floor flats (92 in total).

Wyedean Housing Association

12 two and three bed houses.

Average house prices (number of sales):

	Oct-Dec 04	Jul-Sept 04
Detached	£196,316 (6)	£184,158 (6)
Semi-detached	£- (0)	£143,750 (6)
Terraced	£115,000 (3)	£128,833 (3)
Flat / maisonette	£- (0)	£- (0)
Average	£169,210 (9)	£156,929 (15)

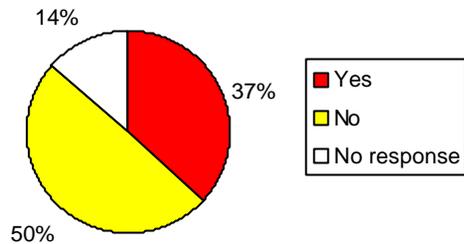
Data from the Land Registry for properties from the GL14 3 postcode area.

SURVEY RESULTS

Parish Plan Survey - Housing Questions

Question 37. Do you think the parish can accommodate new housing?

37% of respondents believe the parish can accommodate new housing.

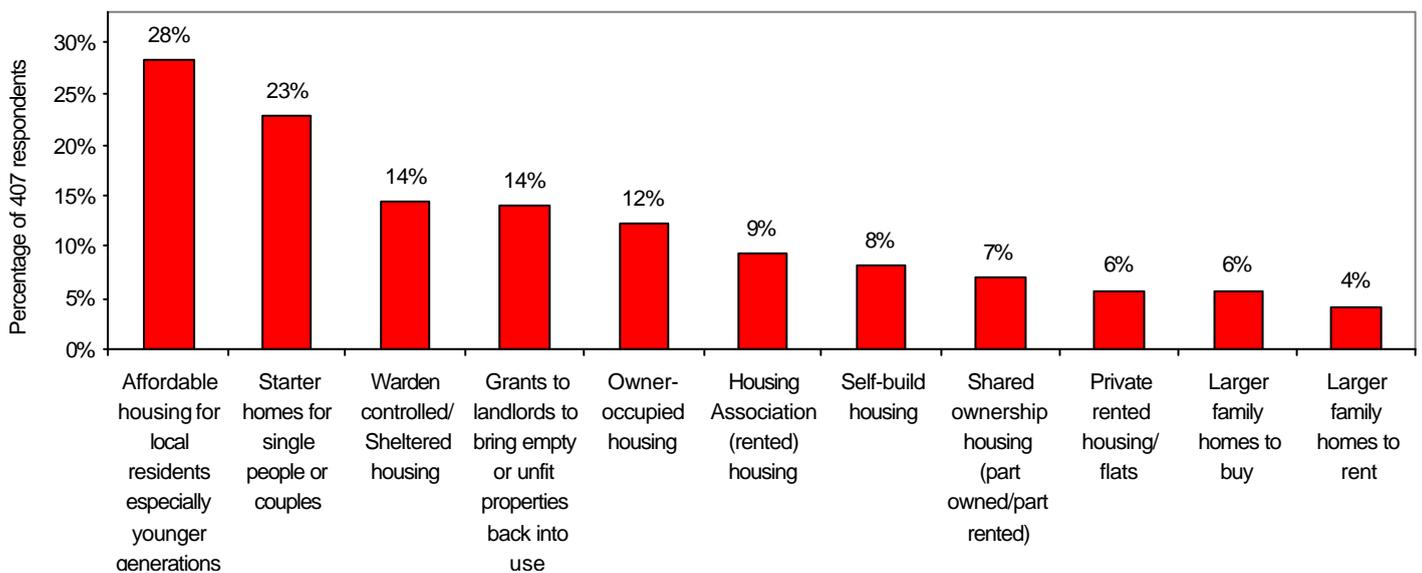


Comment

- Do you mean "should" or "can"?
- **Littledean is and should stay a VILLAGE. Any building would make the village become a small town. What we need to do is improve on what we have and not make it bigger. The Forest has enough towns. We need to keep our village.**
- I feel that although there has been substantial residential development in the village, which has allowed run-down properties to be turned into new and saleable properties for first time buyers, we may be in danger of being known as Belldean and not Littledean!

Question 38. If your answer to question 37 is yes, what type of housing should it be? (Please tick as many as you wish)

28% of all respondents think that affordable housing for local residents (especially younger generations) should be built in the parish.



Other - please specify

- Nursing home particularly for elderly
- Innovative energy efficient housing
- Bungalows, 2 bedroom, near village for older people.
- Affordable first-time-buyer homes for families
- Affordable housing for local residents generally
- Infill homes in hamlets
- Infill development

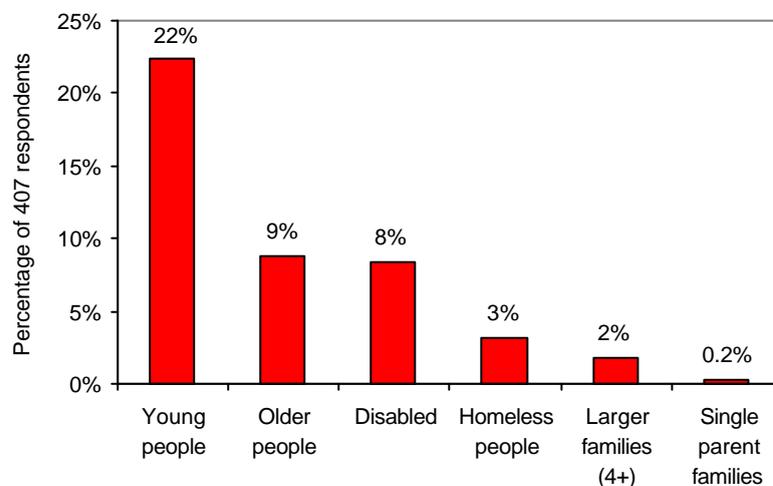
Comments

- All should be built with garage or car space to keep traffic parking off roads.
- Not too many - they should be in small groups, preferably infill in the village plus one or two in each of the outlying hamlets, perhaps 20-30 in total.
- Is this really what this questionnaire is about?

Question 39. Should house building be prioritised to meet the needs of the following?

Respondents were asked to rank the different groups in order of priority.

The proportion of all 407 respondents who ranked each option in the list as "1", i.e. highest priority, are shown in the chart below, with housing for young people clearly in first place.



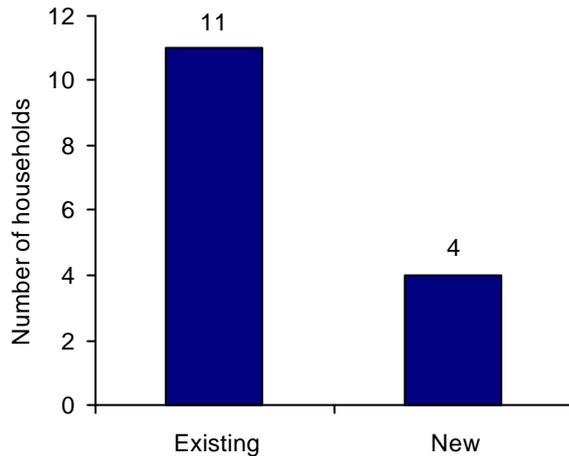
Other

- New families
- Keeping families together
- Low cost renting
- No building!
- Prioritise villagers' housing needs before outsiders
- Equally fair distribution I suppose
- Don't turn Littledean into a town.
- Allow property to be extended to accommodate needs of family.

Housing Needs Survey

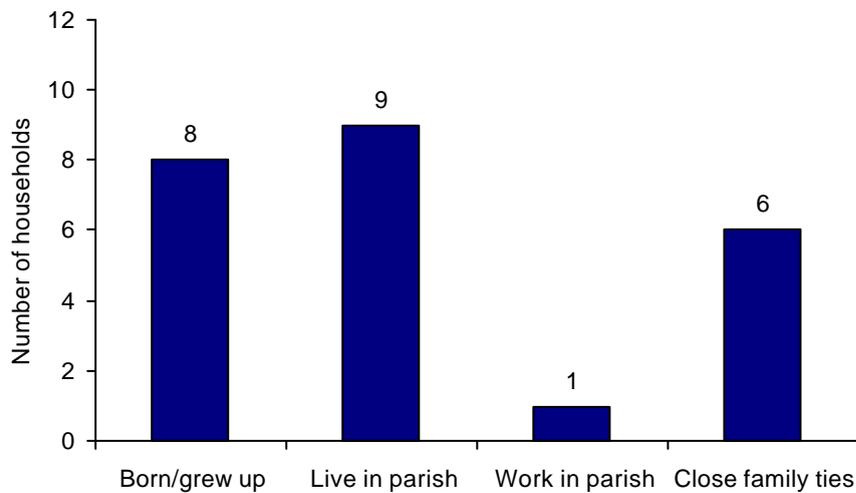
Question 1. Type of household.

All fifteen respondents answered this question. The majority were existing households looking to change their current accommodation situation.



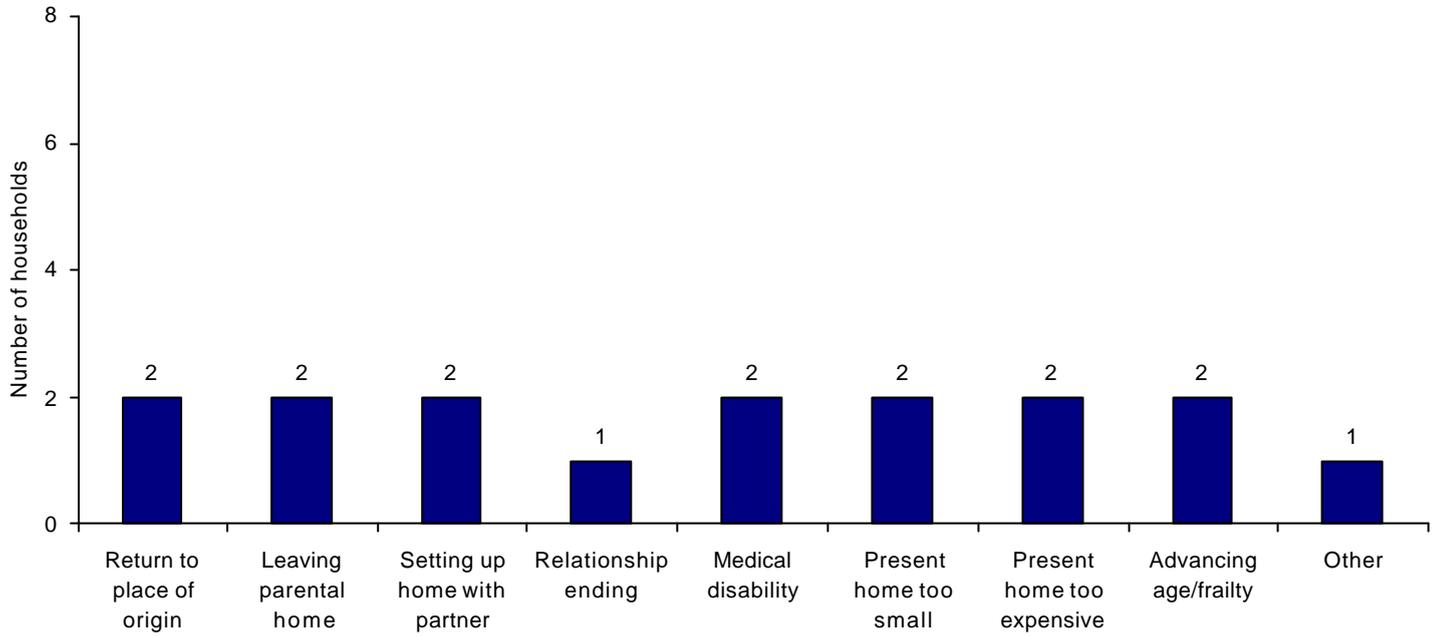
Question 2. What is your connection to the parish?

Each of the fifteen respondents were able to select more than one answer. Most either grew up in or currently live in the parish.



Question 3. Why do you need to move?

Respondents (13) gave a wide range of answers.

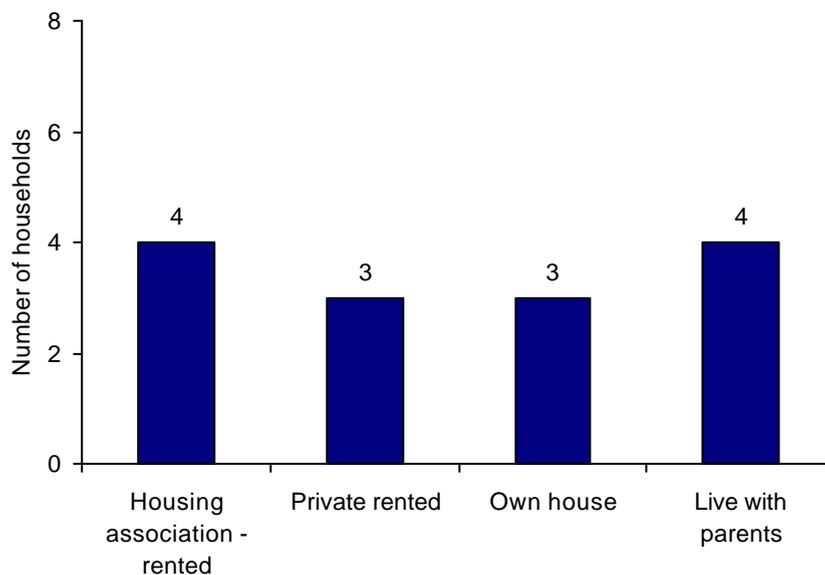


Comments

- I need to extend my property to accommodate my family.
- Need to care for my ageing parent but find it hard living with them.

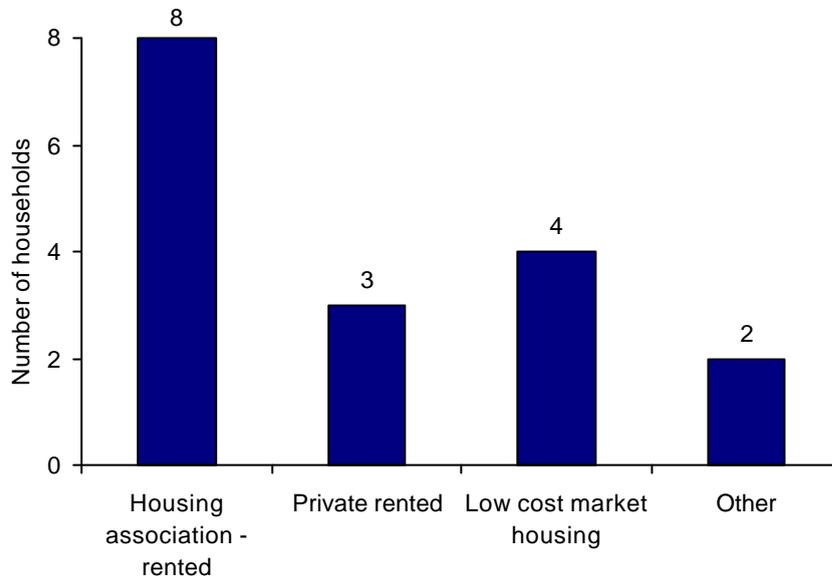
Question 4. Which of the following categories of housing do you currently live in?

The fourteen respondents live in a variety of house types.



Question 5. Which of the following types of tenure would best meet your immediate future needs?

The majority of respondents (8 out of 10) would need housing association rented properties, with some wishing to rent privately and some buying at less than market rate. More than one answer could be selected.

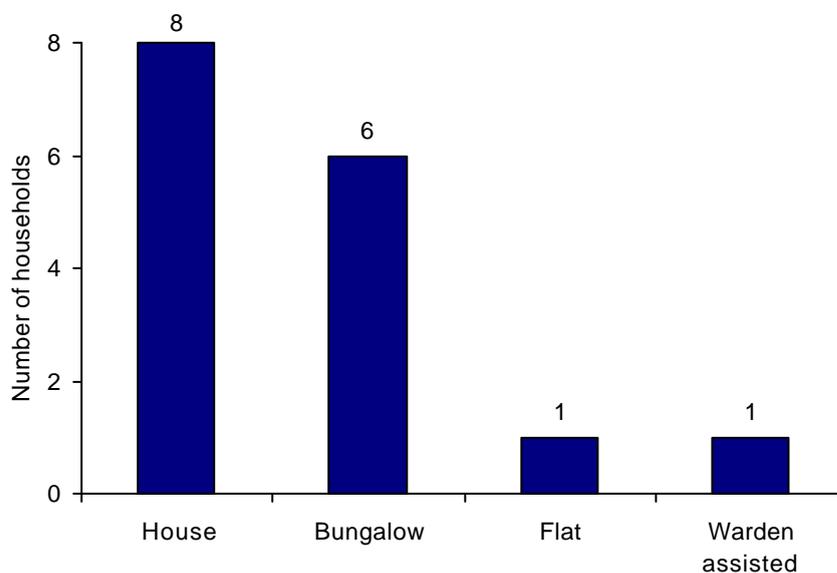


Other

- Co-operative
- OAP bungalow

Question 6. Which type of home would best suit your needs?

Most respondents (8 out of 13) would like a house.



Question 7. Gross income of the household needing to move.

Twelve households answered this question; gross income ranged from below £10,000 up to £30,000-£40,000.

Question 8a. Savings for a deposit.

Three households gave a figure for the amount of savings they have that could be used as a deposit.

Question 8b. Rent per week.

Respondents were asked to indicate the most they could afford to pay in rent per week. Seven households responded and the amount ranged from £0-£50 per week to £50-£100 per week.

Other comments

- I am 58 and disabled.
- I own my property which is composed of a small kitchen, bedroom and very small bathroom. I need to extend to accommodate my partner and 3 year old son. But am finding the planning process very unhelpful and obstructive.
- In the near foreseeable future we can't see ourselves affording our own house. We are in our early twenties and can't see ourselves leaving rented accommodation.
- Leaving parental home sometime in the future and work full time on working pupil wage.