

Durweston

“A Vibrant Village”

www.durweston.org.uk

Village Plan 2005



Cover Photo courtesy of Malcom Messiter

Survey Results

This Village Plan was supported by The Countryside Agency
North Dorset District Council
Dorset Community Action

Durweston Village Plan – Projects for consideration

Following from the exhibition in the Village Hall on the 18th March 2006, and the replies received to the questionnaire enclosed with the circulated copies of the Village Plan Survey document, coupled with the comments contained within the original Survey Questionnaire, the Village Plan Steering Committee have pleasure in submitting to the Parish Council the following items as subjects for consideration as ongoing PROJECTS for the benefit of the Village, Residents and Visitors.

We suggest that people are approached (this could be done by direct approach or by advertising) with a view to creating small Action Groups to take projects forward, generate funding and pursue grants where these may be available.

Possible Projects – Select and arrange in Priority Order

- 1) Create an Archaeology Group to investigate the local area and linked to the further development of the Archive of the Parish (Land Use, Building development and alterations, Inhabitants, Occupations, Character etc.) which we understand is already in progress. Also establish a display board to provide information for visitors/walkers, illustrating aspects of interest in the parish.
- 2) Establish a Single Parent Needs / Child Care / Disability forum.
- 3) Establish a Car Share forum
- 4) A suggestion was made that a Portal could be established where residents could post wants, needs, help or services. Time would be given free to and by users and it would improve contacts within the village, increasing the “bonding” and bringing people together. A further extension to this could be that items could be offered for “re-cycling”, not all items are saleable but still have a useful life and being able to re-home items within the village would help reduce landfill. This scheme operates successfully in Shaftesbury, Bridport, Weymouth and Dorchester, Why not Durweston? It could be run in the Durweston News in addition to on the Durweston Web-site.

Ref. Freecycle.org for information.

5) Maybe these projects (2-3-4) could be combined and funding sought to create a full-time job for a co-ordinator.

This would add an item under Business Development.

6) Make efforts to have a Speed / Weight restriction through the village and attempt to restrict parking at the junction of Church Road and Milton Lane, which may necessitate varying the trade entrance to Bryanston. Try to increase the maintenance of verges and potholes.

7) Playing Field – increased range of activities would be welcome. Requests given to Playing Field committee.

8) Provide a Notice Board somewhere in the village to display information for Village Hall Activities and Events.

9) Carry out landscaping / tree – shrub planting around Village Hall.

10) Church. There has been a request for the establishment of a choir formed from local talent to perform in the church regularly each month.

11) Stiles – There is a wish to see the stiles in the parish improved by either substituting Kissing Gates or some other easy to traverse design. (Funding has been obtained in a local village for this). A further suggestion was that the cost of construction of stiles could be helped by Sponsorship (In Memory of ...?) and small plaques attached. Try to establish links to the Trailway and Jubilee Trail, Oppose local “BOATS”.

12) A limited Medical Facility would be appreciated in the village hall as would

13) A part time Post Office, preferably in the village hall, with the involvement of Stourpaine Post Office (which facility could be damaged without its participation).

14) Best Kept Village – there was considerable interest expressed that we should try to get this competition running again. Parish Council would need to attract a group to carry out the

project. There was also interest in a campaign to address the litter* and a tidiness problem in the village.

15) Affordable Housing/Self Build for villager use was of interest to a number of people but if any building were to be considered it should be of attractive design, on a small scale and set up in such a way that the cost of building is minimised and that at the time of any subsequent re-sale the low cost element is retained. Our findings passed to N.D.D.C. Could we attract a private initiative?

16) The visiting Library service would be better used if the visiting time was adjusted to coincide with school finishing time and allowed for those who are working to be able to use it after work.

17)* As the village is in a predominantly agricultural area in might be useful to provide Education for adults and children to explain what is happening in the farming community season by season. A significant proportion of our community are not of rural origin and a greater awareness of procedures, problems and sequences would increase the rapport with the environment and therefore improve attitudes to litter, access etc. The education could perhaps be arranged to make use of one of the huts in Norton Woods where lectures could be given by Agriculturalists, the Forestry Commission, Ornithologists the Environment Agency, local Crafts Groups and Wild Life experts.

18) Establish a database accessible through the village web site to lead people to Funding Sources. (See page 30 section 4b of the Shaftesbury Area Plan).

19) Sustainability. Could Power Generation using the flow of the river be considered. Perhaps a turbine could be installed near the mill or weir. Power generated could be sold to the National Grid and the proceeds off-set against the Parish Precept to the benefit of residents.

Acknowledgements

This Village Plan Project was commissioned by Durweston Parish Council and carried out by a sub-committee headed by Mrs. S. Bennett and Mr. J. D. Astin.

Mrs. Bennett and Mr Astin would like to thank all those who have actively helped with the project by providing additional information and advice as the project developed.

We would specifically thank Chris Tomlinson for his work in developing a bespoke computer program and Paul Coulter for inputting a huge amount of data.

Our thanks also go to DEFRA, THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY , D.C.C.
AND N.D.D.C.

We hope that the finished document will prove a useful guide as to the wishes of the residents of the parish and lead to the establishments of a number of beneficial projects which will improve the economic and social well being of the community.

Preface

Durweston is situated in the Stour Valley and is a small village comprising some 166 households. We are approximately 3 miles from Blandford and 1 mile from Stourpaine. The Parish extends over approximately 3 square miles . It is situated in the East Dorset AONB (area of outstanding natural beauty) and is in itself a Conservation area. Within the parish are a number of S.S.I.'s As this implies, it is a very attractive rural environment and we enjoy fantastic views both by day and night and, as we have little light pollution, on a clear night the heavens are a sight to behold. Unfortunately, this is being threatened by development in adjoining areas where high levels of lighting are being introduced.

There are many footpaths and an abundance of woodland, fantastic displays of bluebells in May and above all a friendly mix of people – what more could we ask?

Perhaps the answer to that would be “as little change as possible”?

The village is bisected by the A357 running from the junction of the A350 Blandford to Shaftesbury road towards Sturminster Newton. This road is claimed to be one of the busiest roads in Dorset.

Some efforts have been made in recent years to slow down the vehicles using this road but it is still hazardous for pedestrians (young and old) and animals who need to cross from one part of the village to the other.

We have no shop, pub, post office, garage, or filling station but thanks to great efforts in recent years we now have an excellent village hall that is well used by villagers for regular clubs, film shows, youth club etc. and by outside organisations as a venue for meetings, seminars and other events. A well cared for church is also a focal point although the congregation is often small.

Farmland ownership in the parish is primarily in the hands of the Crown, much of it being held by tenant farmers from the same family. By using a high degree of mechanisation only a small workforce is employed. Over time farms have become larger units through amalgamation.

DURWESTON PAST

Many houses, cottages and farm buildings date from the 19th century but the two rows of thatched cottages and a few other dwellings survive from earlier times. The village and the farm land came into the hands of the Portman family in the 1770's and became part of the Bryanston Estate. All building was controlled by the Estate and many labourers not employed on the farms, blacksmith, wheelwright etc. could find work on the estate which by the end of the 19th century was almost a little kingdom.

Great changes came in 1919 and 1923 following the death of the second and third Viscounts when the mansion was sold and became Bryanston School. During the 1940's the remainder of the estate was handed over in lieu of death duties to the Exchequer and in 1950 was added to the Crown Estate. Today many houses and cottages are privately owned and employment on the land has shrunk from 50 in the 1850's to 5 including 3 farmers.

Unusually for the times, the Portmans built Barrack Row in the 1820's, a project to improve housing conditions for their workers. It is hard to imagine these 7 dwellings containing two families each as they did in the 1840's and 50's in times of great population growth. Barrack Row is built of brick and tile but later dwellings are of grey concrete cob, a Portman invention. Local brick was made from a pit at Folly but, on exhaustion, brick was imported in 1895 from Gillingham for the original school at the cross roads.

When times were very bad in the 1840's a number of Durwestonians emigrated to Australia. Some of their descendants still keep in touch with their roots.

Durweston and Knighton were originally two separate entities or tithings each with their own church and Rector. Each in such tiny communities could not be financially viable. Durweston's church was demolished, being close to the river Stour it would have been subject to flooding. Materials from it were used at Knighton church. The mediaeval carving of St. Eloi above the church door was probably from the old church, rediscovered in the wall behind the altar in the 1840's. The church is now managed as a joint benefice with Pimperne, Stourpaine and Bryanston.

Durweston boasted a vineyard recorded in the Domesday Book, probably where Norton cottages are now.

What have we lost in the last 50 years? Three shops and Post Office, a forge, garage, a wheelwright? **And gained?** A potter, Haycombe, St Nicholas Gardens and Wynchard Bank and the the magnificent Village Hall.

Basis of Survey

A Survey was carried out by delivering a questionnaire to every household in the parish (166).

Note. A supplementary survey on the Animal Population of the Parish was run along side the main questionnaire.

Target Groups

Responses to a range of questions were sought from specific age groups.

Information was gathered by collecting and analysing all available questionnaires.

134 were collected with several attempts made to maximise this number.

A few people declined to participate whilst others simply failed to respond.

Population over the years

CENSUS TABLE FOR DURWESTON

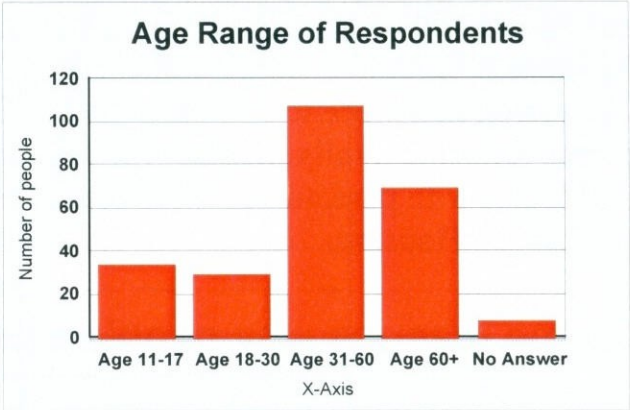
YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
1921	310	1961	340
1931	290	1971	420
1941	NO CENSUS	1981	300
1951	280	1991	410
		2001	430

Of those who completed (in whole or part) the returned questionnaires, the make up was as follows:-

Respondents 247 of which

34 or 14% were 11-17,
 29 or 12% were 18-30,
 107 or 43% were 31-60 and
 69 or 28% were over 60 so

about 55% are of working age and below the womens' average retirement age (= 136 people)
 Well over a quarter are over 60.



20, including Knighton House’s 9 children over 11’s and resident staff responding do not have Durweston as a main residence (8%). Interestingly only 8 claimed to have Durweston as a second home – there are more and a further 5 second homes did not respond!

Household size. see table

Number in household

1	2	3	4	5	6	30*
33	43	17	12	9	1	1

Number of households

* Note that this figure relates to Knighton House School Boarders.

Not always counted are young people away at university.

Only 11 out of 118 households (4%) anticipate increasing in size over the next few years.

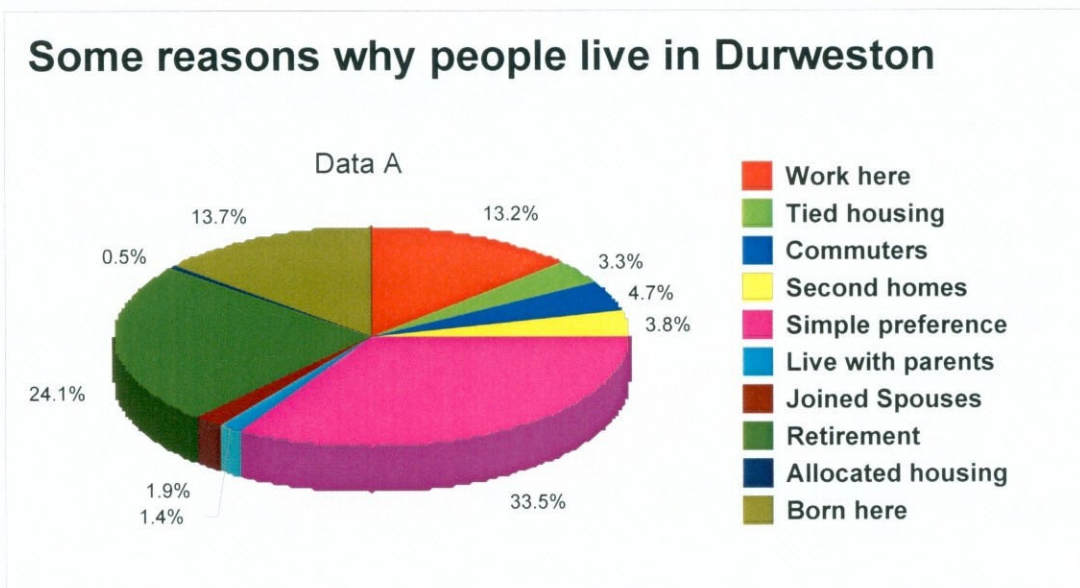
How long have you lived here?

Over half (126) have lived here for over ten years, (some of these for many more), and 31 (13%) 5-10 years. There are 39 relative new comers, (1/6 th of the village) equivalent to 16% of the total. 19 of these arrived in the last year. This represents a healthy turnover and is **not related to new-build** of which there has been very little in the past two years.

Why do you live here?

The village attracts people for many reasons.

28 work here and again there were many more who did not care to respond. 7 have tied housing, 10 commute from here and again 8 respondents have second homes. 29 or 12% were born here and have stayed in the village. Retirement brought a large number (51 or 21%) but simple preference for Durweston as a place to live brought 71 (29%). Also, family business accounts for some family members and marriage brought 4 to join their spouses. Still living with parents was cited by 3 others. Only 1 attributed the location to Signpost Housing.



Lack of child care

11 people are hindered from getting to work or education by this lack. 11 found the cost of child care an issue. Lack of care for a dependant stops 1 from working.

Carers and parents

We have 9 single parents, only 1 is in the 18-30 group.

15 people are carers of whom 11 are in the 31-60 age group, 5 of these are full time carers. There are 6 part time carers in the 31-60 age group and 3 over 60's.

Transport problems.

Lack of transport was a similar problem for 18 people in getting to work, education or training. See section on Transport.

Ill health / disability

These conditions presented problems for 4 people.

Work / Employment.

What proportion are working?

Half those responding i.e. 125 people are working, 88 of those (70%) work full time and the rest are in part time employment.

What do they do? See table.

OCCUPATION CATEGORY	NUMBER EMPLOYED
Agriculture, Forestry & Gardening	12
Retail	11
Financial Services	2
Carer	4
General Nursing & Health	6
Tourism	2
Construction & Building	6
Local Government	3
Food Processing	1
Arts, Crafts, Journalism & Music	10
Manufacturing	8
Services & Transport	5
H.M. Forces	2
Education	27
Seeking Work	2
Other - See Below	25

Number of respondents answering this question was 121 out of a total of 247 (or 49%)

Spraying sheep alongside Mill Lane 2005 using a portable crush.



Several professions were not specifically covered in this list though respondents answered. Those included accountancy, a surveyor and an I.T. consultant. We had two riding instructors, four on maternity leave, a sports coach and three multi-taskers.

Supplementary Information.

Based on local knowledge it was apparent that some occupations and businesses were not represented in the responses but exist none the less and in order to make a fuller picture these should be acknowledged (although not statistically recorded).

These include a veterinary surgeon, a second surveyor/estate agent, an aeronautical engineer, a lawyer, three film producers and at least one writer. We also have several craftsmen including a thatcher and a renowned potter.

Businesses include a taxi service, an animal health business, three carpentry/joinery/cabinet making businesses providing employment for three residents and several outsiders,

Job hunting.

This is affected by a lack of local opportunities said 22 people (10%) of respondents. 8 people had moved away because of the lack of employment and these were in the 31-60 age group.

Business development.

8 of the 22 involved in their own businesses say they need more space in the parish. Five needed a farm shop and eleven needed an extension or conversion of existing premises somewhere. 22 work primarily from home. 3 need more staff.

Local services for business.

7 of our business people would like better services. Broadband is not available in all places, public transport is inadequate and 6 need more land. B.T. was found to be unreliable and slow.

Transport and Mobility

Vehicles.

209 or 85% of villagers have access to a vehicle but still 16 do not. 181 drive and 60 do not, of whom 25 were under 17 or over 60.

Car sharing.

2/3rds of all trips are 1 person affairs. 19 share a car to work, 16 for shopping trips and 16 share the trip to school. Sharing happens within the family too.

Alternative transport.

We did not ask how many people regularly used a bicycle or motorcycle.

Dial-up transport.

Nordcat was familiar to 130 people (65% of those answering – mostly the older section of the community). Likewise the taxi voucher scheme and the hospital car service were also well known.

Public Transport

The village is served by local bus services connecting to Blandford, Poole and Bournemouth, Yeovil, Sherborne and by changing in Blandford, Salisbury, and Dorchester can be accessed. From Durweston Bridge it is possible to get a bus to Shaftesbury.

Services are generally infrequent and one could possibly argue under-used but then, if public transport is to become popular it has to take people where they wish to go, at times they find convenient and at costs which make using a car unattractive, (even allowing for the convenience of door to door travel). Another consideration when looking at bus travel is the difficulty of carrying large amounts of shopping and shopping trolleys or possibly small children plus their equipment.

Many bus operators discourage travel by restricting the carriage of trolleys and pushchairs.

Rail links

Rail services can be accessed in Gillingham, Yeovil, Salisbury and Bournemouth since the closure of the local track in about 1966.

Taxis

These are plentiful in the area but are expensive, particularly if used by one occupant.

Again, the cost of using a taxi from Durweston to Blandford is about 10 times more expensive than using ones car!

Nordcat.

This is a minibus (disabled adapted) service available to registered users only. Membership is currently £2 per year.

It provides inexpensive Door to Door travel for elderly and disabled people and can carry several wheelchair based people. Certain areas are covered on certain days and it is possible for example, to be taken from ones home to Tesco in Blandford and be collected from there at a later time complete with shopping and be returned home.

In addition, Day-trips are operated to surrounding places of interest and these are well supported.

Footpaths and Bridleways

139 considered that our Footpaths and Bridleways were well kept while 58 disagree.



Walking in Norton Woods (a haven for Bluebells in springtime)

There is concern at the condition of the bridleway from The Mill to Stourpaine and it is suggested that some form of hard surface (duckboards?) would make use of this route easier in wet weather. It was also suggested that a narrow raised walkway (pedestrian use only) across the valley might be considered.



A view of our only footpath across the Stour Valley to Stourpaine showing the better part of the route. This route is subject to deep flooding at certain times during the year.

Most concerns came from the 60+ group as the condition of walking surfaces and stiles is more significant for older people. Could we improve the design of the stiles?

Environment and Community Services.

Road Maintenance.

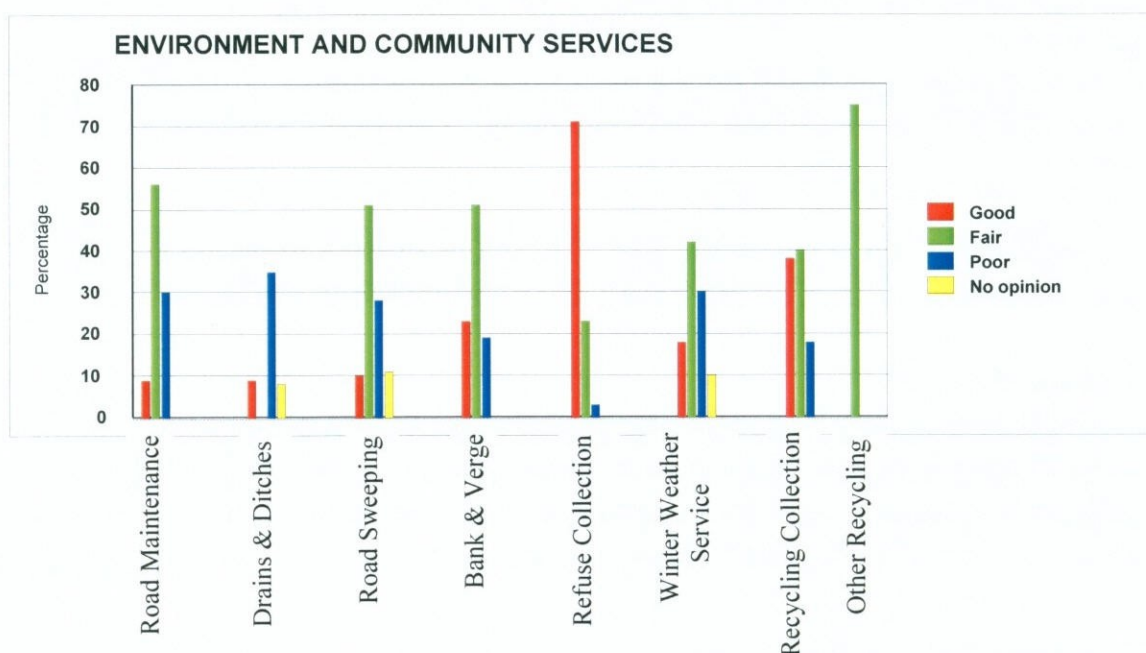
Only 9% thought maintenance was good, 56% reasonable and 30% poor. There was a high response of 216 to this question.

Drains and Ditches.

Similarly, 9% (47) thought good, 35 poor and 8% gave no opinion.

Road Sweeping.

10% thought the service was good, 51% reasonable, 28% poor and 11% had no opinion (total 214 answers).



Dog Fouling.

This is not regarded as a significant problem by 60% of residents although 40% of those responding disagreed. There were suggestions that more dog waste bins might help in such locations as The Glebe, Haycombe, at the bottom of Water Lane and by the allotments.

Not all dog mess is down to resident animals – Visitors pets are also culprits. Note. New arrangements with N.D.D.C. allow dog waste to be placed in normal litter bins so this may help.

(Note – there were 69 dogs notified as being resident in the village but it is believed there could be as many as 85.)

Bank and Verge.

23% said it was good, 51% reasonable, 19% poor and the remainder had no opinion.

Refuse Collection.

Generally regarded as good (71%), reasonable by 23% and poor by only 3%.

Winter Weather Service.

This was considered good by only 18% while 42% thought it was reasonable and 30% said it was poor. 10% did not express any opinion.

Do we have what can be considered “Winter Weather” here?, there being normally only brief periods of early morning frost and a few hours of light snow experienced in the past few years. Would better driving skills be more appropriate than increased gritting?

Recycling.

Collection service was considered good by 38%, reasonable by 40% and 18% thought it poor.

The over 60's were split 50/50 on the use of re-cycling but the situation improved to 2/3rds in favour in the 18/59 age range. The 11-17's did not seem so interested.

88% of respondents DO recycle the FULL RANGE offered by N.D.D.C. and the same percentage would like to have GLASS included in the collection.

What about the rest?

75% of villagers use the Upper Shaftesbury Rd. recycling centre and there was a 60/40 split in favour of a mini recycling facility in the village hall car park although those in favour felt it should be well screened.

A high proportion of villagers (59%) also use a composter.

BT Telephone Box – Milton Lane.

With the advent of Mobile Phones and the incidence of household telephones the usage of the telephone box has fallen to only 9% (20) of those completing the questionnaire, and then it is only occasional use. (We did not ask *what* they used it for!) At present the box accepts coin but it is understood that this is going to change and only telephone cards will be accepted. Does this spell the end of a public telephone in the village ?

Library Service.

Use of the visiting library is very low, being used by only 5% of those who replied but 13% said that they would use it if the time of its visit was different and although there were several suggestions (24) for this, the predominant one was for a visit at the end of school day. This could encourage use by parents and children. It was also felt that the choice of books was limited. There were 11 regular users in the 31/60 age band and 13 occasional users.

Information.

There are currently two notice boards in the village, one outside the School and one in the lay-by on the A357 near the post box.

We have a web site :- www.durweston.org.uk which receives visits from all parts of the world, keeping past residents in-touch with current “happenings” and a monthly News Letter (Durweston News).

Newcomers are given a brochure titled “Welcome to Durweston” which contains basic information about the village, services available and telephone and other contact details for local contacts.

Communication

Durweston News.

This monthly publication is hugely popular with a 93% approval rate.

Keen readers have many suggestions such as : Interviews with older inhabitants, Births, Marriages and Deaths, Points of View Page, What’s On Locally, Teenage Entertainment in the area, Youth Club Activities.

Information for visitors.

A high proportion (81%) said this should be welcomed. Perhaps a notice board for visitors’ benefit or may be a leaflet detailing places of interest (past and present and indicating previous use of some of our buildings?) and providing some background about the village.

Our Past.

127 (1/2 of the total respondees!) wanted to know more about the archaeology in the Parish – the greatest interest was from the 31-60 age group. This might also be of interest to visitors.

Charity Events

Numerous fund raising events take place in the parish each year



Collecting for Children in Need



Garden Fete for RNLI



Bluebell Ride to raise funds for
The Church and Cancer Research

Shopping.

92% of households rely on Blandford, 4% regularly travel to Bournemouth or Poole, 1% use the next village and (surprisingly) we only found 1 shopper who regularly used Sturminster Newton. Dorchester, Gillingham fared no better. There were two who used the Farm Shop at Tarrant Gunville. A few people in the 18-30 range and 31-60 range shop further afield (are they shopping near to where they work?).

Visiting Traders.

84 people use one or more of the visiting traders with more than half of parishioners over 60 taking advantage of their services.

Supermarket Delivery.

There was a 91% awareness that it is possible to have shopping delivered by some local supermarkets.

Postal Services.

Collections serve 84% adequately but **deliveries were described as just adequate.**

There was a general feeling that the village needed a part-time Post Office - a view expressed by approximately 75% of each age group over 18. The popular location suggested was in the Village Hall.

Spray Drift.

18% of residents felt this was a problem. Said to be affected were areas along to Middle Lodge, Water Lane, the Mill and along the river. This includes permanent grazing, large arable fields were also mentioned as were Milton Lane, along Wynchard Bank, the Allotments and behind The Glebe - there may be others, generally affecting properties adjoining fields.

There is also concern about the loss of field mushrooms between Water Lane and Mill Lane.

Health and Medical Services.

The majority use health centres in Blandford (175) and a few use Childe Okeford and Milton Abbas. Appointments can be had easily enough for 193 (88%) but there are 27 who do not find their doctor so accessible.

N.H.S. Dentistry serves 114 or 55% of those answering and the remainder find signing up difficult (95 or 45%) so there is a marked shortage of capacity here. Clearly, accessing medical services is not as easy as could be wished, even if appointments can be made by telephone as 112 people would consider a part-time medical facility in the village hall helpful. Perhaps a District Nurse or some limited advisory service.

Parish Council

Meetings.

106 people were aware that the monthly meetings are open to the public and that they can participate.

Boring? Sometimes, **Lively?**, Occasionally, **Relevant?**, always!

Public attendance at P.C. meetings is generally low and greater involvement from parishioners would be advantageous to all.

Issues can be raised at the public discussion session at the start of the meeting but for items to be given full consideration a request should be made for inclusion on the Agenda. This can be done by contacting any of the Parish Councilors or the Parish Clerk at least two weeks prior to a meeting.

Would the inclusion of a “tear out slip” in the Durweston News encourage more communication by residents with the P.C?

Housing

Housing Costs

Most people manage and do not look for “affordable housing”.

17 (i.e. 7%) are likely to need this in the next 5 years. Breakdown as follows

11-17 2 people, 18-30 and 31-60 6 people each and over 60, 3.

Need is across the board and implies that existing arrangements will be inadequate.

Housing Development.

The majority of respondents were generally against further development within the parish but 42% felt that any housing development should reflect Local Need and Local Income

Solving housing need.

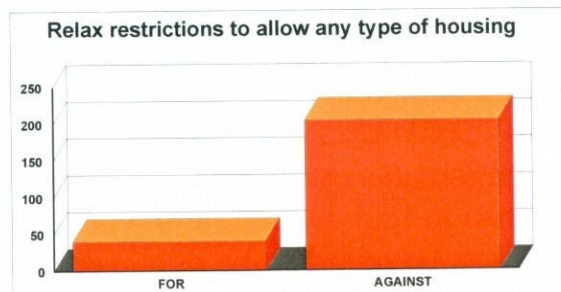
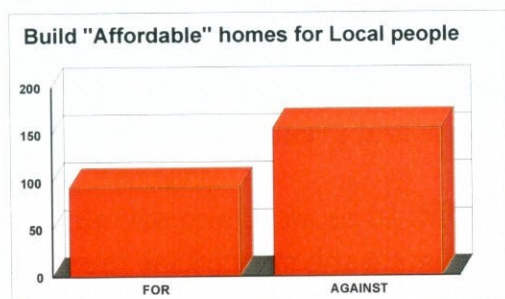
Shared ownership interested 16 people and 17 would consider self-build. 18 people expect to move within the village. Primarily these are working age people. More (31) are looking to move out of the village.

7 years is the national average for staying in one house. Are we slightly more mobile? Does the proximity of Blandford Camp and private schools have an impact on the movements of residents?

Building more houses.

A minority considered that building affordable homes for local people by relaxing restrictions should be allowed (94 to 157).

Relaxing restrictions to allow any type of houses again approved by only a small minority (41 to 204).



Policy should stay the same as it is now was claimed by 73 (30% of the whole).

Houses for Local Need and reflecting Local Income as a policy was favoured by 102 people (42% of the whole).

Large Scale development.

Only 18 people wanted this for the village (7%).

119 (40% of whole) people thought that the Parish Council should have the right to appeal against planning decisions given by North Dorset District Council (as does any applicant who is not content with a refusal)..

Windfarms.

These get a 44% approval rating or 39% of total respondees. Opposition was 40% or 36% of total answers but there was no discussion of size , height or locations.

Radiation from communication masts worried 123 or half the total responding. Other sources of radiation concerned 72 but not the majority.

Village Hall.

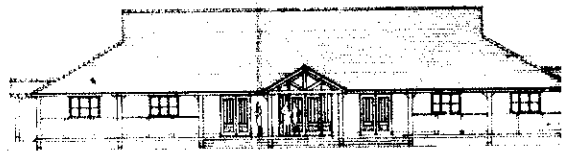
See page 24 for list of suggested activities

Information about events in the Hall.

A huge majority (180 to 33) would like to see a notice board somewhere in the village, which displayed information about events and activities taking place in the Village Hall for at least two weeks ahead. (Could this take the form of an enclosed write/wipe board with spaces for the hire periods for each day?)

Times and prices for events could be a useful addition.





north

Original architects illustration for our Village Hall

Village Hall continued.

Computer Facility

21 people (survey result only) said they make use of the **computer facility** in the village hall,
182 said they have access to a computer at home and at the time of the survey
44 of them were on Broadband.

Film Nights .

19 over 60's attend regularly and 27 occasionally whilst only 8 people in the 31-60's group were regulars with 41 saying they attended from time to time.

A Bar.

A majority of villagers (all age groups) thought that a permanent bar in the village hall was **not** a good idea although the provision of a bar for specific functions was more popular.

The Coffee Shop.

42 people said that they use the Friday Coffee Shop in the hall but 63 claimed they would attend if it were additionally available on a Saturday. This included 29 of 31-60's and 5 18-30's (i.e. working age range). It was suggested that perhaps these mornings could alternate.

Events and Activities

58% of respondents would like to see more activities at the hall. We had a wide range of suggestions. See appendix on page 24.

Mothers and Toddlers Group.

This facility would presently be of interest to 16.
These fell into the following age groups 1 in 11-17, 6 in 18-30 and 9 in 31-60.
This suggests that it might include grandparents with the toddlers. Several grandparents are carers for little children.

Accessibility.

82% said that they could get to the hall when events occurred.

Disability.

A small number of residents indicated that they felt they were excluded from aspects of village life because of frailty or other disability. Difficulties mentioned included getting to church, crossing the Village Hall car park in a pavement scooter and getting to Artsreach events. The age distribution is 1 in the 18-30 group, 1 in the 31-60's and 4 in the Over 60's. This is a small number but a **BIG ISSUE!**

Playing Field

The village has an excellent and well used playing field adjoining the village hall. The latter provides changing and toilet facilities during organised events and can be hired to allow refreshments to be served. There is a Hard Court and new this year is a small Skateboard facility. There is also a playground for small children with its own range of attractions.

This is all enthusiastically operated and looked after by The Playing Field Committee on behalf of the Parish Council.

Activities.

87 people said they would like to see a greater range of activities available on the playing field. See appendix on page 26 for suggestions.

The smallest group of respondents on this issue were the 18-30's. This age group will no doubt have other interests and demands on their time, yet, in a recent letter to the local press it was claimed by a young man (not from this village) that he and his friends had difficulty finding somewhere to kick a ball about.

Village Shows.

115 residents said they would like to see a regular village show reinstated. The enthusiasm was constant across the age bands. A minority thought that the event should be bi-annual.



Durweston

Show



2001

Schools.

Durweston First School (now Primary) and Knighton House lie within the parish. (Children over 11 were included in our survey.)



Durweston Primary School 2005

Durweston School moved to the present site in Church Road from its original site in Milton Lane at the junction of the A357 in 1893 at which time it catered for all ages up to 14 (the leaving age). Since then it has been known as Durweston Primary School (until 1980), Durweston First School until 2005 when it reverted to being Durweston Primary School under the recent re-organisation .

Currently it has 103 pupils but this could rise to a theoretical maximum of 140.

In 2004/5 only 15 were from the village, but the 2005/6 figure is 22 (mainly due to restructuring).

Only 1 member of the staff is a Durweston resident.

Getting to school.

22 walk, 21 come by bus, 1 by cycle and 59 by car. (There is some car sharing).

Distance.

Some pupils travel more than 5 miles to school whilst many come from 3-5 miles.



Knighton House School 2005

Knighton House was the home of the Portman family until approximately 1950 when it was sold and became Knighton House School.

It currently caters for about 150 pupils between the ages of 3 and 13, of these approx 80 are boarders.

Currently 14 members of staff / employees are resident in the parish.

Bryanston School.

The main commercial entrance to Bryanston School is through the village and creates a huge amount of heavy traffic plus a high volume of smaller vehicles which all pass our village school. The volume, size and speed of much of this traffic is hazardous to residents and children.

The Church.



The church of St. Nicholas and St. Eligius dates from the mid 15th Century. The tower which contains a peal of six bells is original but the Nave and Chancel were rebuilt in the 1840's having fallen into a poor state of repair. The Font is believed to date back to the 12th century and its base is Purbeck Marble.

Above the door is a sculpture showing St. Eligius, who is the Patron Saint of Farriers dealing with a difficult horse!

Importance.

The church has a varied impact on village residents, with 2/3rds of the over 60's stating that it is important to them. In the 31-60 group this fell to only 1/3rd. Only 5 out of 29 in the 18 to 30 group and 4 out of 34 in the 11-17 group agreeing that it was important to them. In total, 103 people said that they regard the church as a focal point in the village.

Usage :-

Regular Worshippers.

63 residents claimed to be regular worshippers of whom 11 were in the 11-17 age group and 33 in the over 60's group.

Irregular Worshippers. 2 people said they had only attended once and that was for a funeral.

Baptism is still a popular tradition with residents with 59 people saying that they attended these.

Weddings 54 people said they attend weddings in the church.

Funerals clearly create the greatest attendances as they affect not only regular churchgoers but also bring together families and friends who wish to express their grief and respects. 77 respondents indicated this.

Festivals in the church were important to 61 of those answering this question.

Note, there is a Bell ringer (now retired) who served the church for over 65 years.

Safety/Security

Crime.

Compared with adjoining parishes Durweston has a relatively low crime rate with most incidents being of a minor level, this does not make this any less traumatic to the victims and we should do all we can to achieve an eradication of crime in whatever form from our village.

Durweston Homewatch.

1/3 of the 31-60 and 1/2 the 18-30's groups did not know how the Homewatch system works!

Durweston Homewatch, working with the Police and linked to information services and other Homewatch groups, helps to reduce crime here and in surrounding areas by feeding and receiving information on suspicious events taking place in a real time situation. This information is passed when necessary to members who are then able to take whatever action is appropriate to increase their own security and increase vigilance. When considered of general importance, notices are posted on the two village notice boards and also in the village hall.

Victims of Crime.

156 answered this question of whom 10% (15 people) said they had been victims in the previous 6 months.

Anti-social behaviour.

34% of those answering this question i.e. 53 people said they had experienced this. This was across the age range. 9 in the 11-17 group, 5 in the 18-30, 25 in the 31-60 and 13 over 60's.

Victims of vandalism.

147 answered this question of whom 14 (10%) said they had been victims. Target group was mostly adults – 9 people in the 31-60 range, 2 older and 3 under 30's were also victims.

Peace of mind.

The vast majority of residents feel safe in the village (200 people) but of the 22 who do not 7 were under 17, 4 under 30, 5 in the 31-60 range and 6 of the over 60's. There is some disparity between those who feel safe in the village, mercifully the majority (202 or 82% of the total), and the number who do not.

It was noted that the Steam Fair is the exception to feeling safe for some.

Surveillance. (C.C.T.V.)

There was a significant interest across the age ranges of those who answered this question. Clearly there is a feeling of vulnerability as 84% of those answering felt that this was needed at selected points in the village.

Flooding and Emergency services.

8 people said they had been affected by flooding from the river in the past 5 years and 12 said they get adequate warning which suggests that the present warning system has solved the problem for four residents. Could any improvement be made?

Concern was expressed that we should have an emergency planning officer 82 to 16 in favour (as central government also advocates). Responsibilities would be to coordinate relief and rescue in all types of emergency, along with statutory services.

Police

Calling out the Police.

18 of the 213 answering this had done so and satisfaction on the response time was high – 82% were happy and 4 were not. Only one person had to wait an hour for a response. Police generally get to the scene quickly for most people and do so against a background of under-manning. They are often called to deal with emergency situations which effectively down grades petty crime situations.

Patrols.

Opinion was evenly divided in total on this subject but those caring to answer were hugely in favour of foot patrols – 95% in favour and more frequent car patrols were favoured by 96%. 98 people wanted better liaison between police and residents.

Community Service Vehicle.

The Community Support Team generally manage to visit the village once each month. Usually on a Friday afternoon. They provide the opportunity to discuss any matters of concern and provide advice on security and other issues. It was felt that some variation, to include weekends and evenings, would allow a greater variety of residents to visit and converse with them.

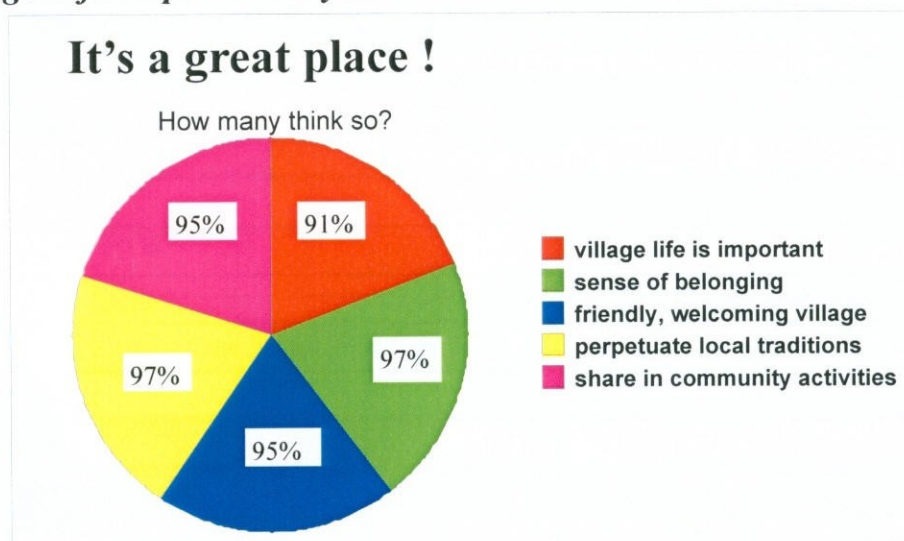


Village ambience

Pride in the village.

This question brought an even split between those who thought there was sufficient pride and care taken in the appearance of the village but 111 (54%) said they were willing to put their effort into the maintenance and cleaning tasks for a Best Kept Village entry. This would give a sizeable work force. We should try to enrol the younger members of our community into any such project. An interesting split was evident when looking at the response related to age groups which revealed that the majority of those who felt that the pride was insufficient were in the over 60's group with a division of 46 to 16. The 18 – 30 group reversed this proportion. Perhaps this explains why volunteers from the younger folk and working population are more difficult to find for projects. Will the condition of the village deteriorate with time or will views change with more leisure time or retirement?

Is Village Life Important to you?



91% said YES (193 of 212 who answered.)

97% valued a "sense of belonging" and

95% feel that Durweston is a friendly, welcoming village.

97% were keen to perpetuate local traditions and

95% share in community activities.

Conversely 2 people in the 11-18 and 3 over 60's did not feel or enjoy this sense of belonging.

Should we regard these high figures as a success or should we try harder to reach those who feel excluded?



















Exciting thought this response is, some 32 households have not participated.

Table of activities suggested for the Village Hall.

Activity	Comment	Requests
Luncheon club		10
Keep fit	Evenings preferred	3
Play group		3
Teddy bears' picnic		3
Activities for 7 year olds		3
Activities for 8 year olds		3
Activities for younger children		2
Dance Club for age 8 boys		2
Yoga classes		2
Pilates	Evenings	1
Snooker and Pool		1
Kids Computer Club		2
Drama Club		1
Ice creams after church		4
Craft Fairs		2
Whist		1
Dog show		3
Dog agility		3
Activities at weekends and in evenings		4
Advice Workshops	i.e. Banking, Health, C.A.B. etc	2
Pub Nights		3
Bingo		1
Social gatherings		2
Gardening Club		1
Sports		1
O.A.P. meetings		1
More Courses		1
Luncheon Club Concerts		1

Animal Survey.

As we are a rural community we felt that it might be interesting to see what creatures were being kept in the parish. The list below gives some idea of what we found . (It is not exhaustive)

	BREED/TYPE	DESCRIPTION (IF YOU WISH)	HOW MANY
	CATTLE		224
	SHEEP		1182
	PIGS	Pot bellied	2
	HORSES		47
	GOATS *	Pigmy	4?
	DOGS		69
	CATS		44
	RABBITS	Domestic	8
	GUINEA PIGS		4
	RATS	Only wild!	
	MICE	Only wild!	
	DUCKS		38
	BIRDS	33 canaries 1 cockatiel, 2 others	36
	REPTILES		
	EXOTICS		
	POND FISH		438 (f) ish!
	INDOOR OR-TROPICAL FISH		73
	CHICKEN		67
	HAMSTER		1
	GEESE		4
	FERRETS		4
		African Land Snails	Lots
		Peacocks	4
		Guinea fowl	4

Other creatures we did not expect!



7 Domestic Rabbits had been poisoned and a number of pets (at least 8) had died as a result of road accidents.

Activities requested on the Playing Field

Activity	Requests
Hockey	2
Rounders	3
Basket Ball	2
Badminton	1
Volley Ball	3
Cricket	10
Kids Events	1
Skate Park	2
Lacross	1
Rugby	6
Tag Rugby	1
Dog Show	2
Dog Agility	2
Car Boot Sales	3
Archery	1
Village Fete	1
Sports Day	1
Annual Show	1
Running	1

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BT Telephone box	12	No. of respondents to questionnaire	5
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Census table	4	Police	22
Child care	6	Postal services	14
Church usage	20	Preface	1
Coffee Shop	17	Pride in the village	23
Communication	13	Public Transport	9
Community Service Vehicle	22	Radiation	16
Computer facility	17	Rail Links	9
Crime	21	Recycling	12
Dial-up transport	8, 9	Refuse collection	11
Disability	17	Road Maintenance	11
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