



HINTON ST MARY

PARISH

APPRAISAL

OCTOBER 2002

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MARY ANDREWS
Chairman
Hinton St Mary Parish Council

Our parish appraisal was started with the circulation of a questionnaire towards the end of April 2001. After a lot of careful analysis, invitations to comment were sent to all the organisations with a duty or interest in providing services to the parish. In many cases, they welcomed the opportunity to comment and the responses of all who replied have been absorbed into the main body of the final report.

It is, perhaps, inevitable that an appraisal such as this will tend to concentrate on the community's problems and concerns. There is an obvious risk that the resulting report will give a somewhat distorted picture of the real quality of life in our community. Two comments may serve to correct any such distortion:

- **Inspector Budden, Sherborne Section Commander, Dorset Police.** "... it seems, from the responses to your questions, that Hinton St Mary is a splendid village in which to live".

- **Laurence Redfern, Manager Engineering Information, Channel Four Television.** "... if I may venture the opinion of one who works in central London, (yours) sounds like a quite idyllic setting".

The final report is now circulated to every household in the parish and to every organisation providing services to us.

Mary Andrews
Chairman
Hinton St Mary Parish Council

HINTON ST MARY PARISH APPRAISAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AIM

The aim of the appraisal was to obtain a portrait of the community and an account of its views on a range of issues.

CONDUCT

Questionnaires were delivered to 95 out of 100 dwellings in the parish. Of the remainder, four were vacant at the time of the appraisal and the occupants of one were absent throughout. Answers were obtained from 90 of the dwellings to which questionnaires were delivered. Of the 213 occupants of these dwellings:

- 185 were aged 16 years old and upwards and 172 answered their section of the personal questionnaire.
- 10 were aged 11-15 years old and all of them answered their section of the personal questionnaire.

After analysis, the preliminary results of the appraisal were circulated to every organisation with a responsibility or interest in the provision of services to the community. Their comments are summarised in the main body of this report.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Of the residents of all ages, 94% were permanently resident. Their average age was 42 years old and the ratio of males to females was nearly even. There was an average of 2.37 people per household and 28% had lived in the parish for more than 15 years.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Casual observers may be surprised that there are 31 children and young persons in the parish. This may be because nearly all of their education and most of their organised out-of-school activities take place outside the parish. There is undoubtedly a strong case for the provision of at least some children's facilities within the parish.

EMPLOYMENT

There appear to be no insuperable problems of employment in the parish although, without a significant number of self employed, only a small minority would be working in the parish. Most residents of Hinton St Mary find employment elsewhere and this has resulted in a small but steady stream of losses to the community. There is a strong desire for more jobs in the parish and reasonable agreement that more small scale workshops and more tourism might provide a way forward. The fact that slightly more women are in favour of these measures than men may indicate that working women with children of pre-school and school age would prefer to work closer to home.



HOUSING

Almost all the dwellings in the parish are occupied as main residences, with 70% owner occupied and most of the remainder privately rented. The amount of accommodation that is available does not appear to be a problem (four of the community's 100 dwellings were vacant at the time of the appraisal).

The community is generally satisfied with the *amount* of new housing that has been built in the past 10 years but a majority think that it has been *too expensive*. Significant minorities also think that there has been too much development and that the houses that have been built are too big. There is a strong feeling that further housing development would spoil the environment. It should be noted that consents exist for three new houses that have yet to be built.



A small but steady stream of people has been continuing to leave the parish in

search of affordable housing and, in many cases, it seems that they would want to return if suitable accommodation were available. Despite general opposition to further housing development, a strong majority would have no objection to new housing that met the needs of *genuinely* local people. It is very strongly felt that any such housing should be for young people and families.

TRANSPORT

Residents of the parish depend almost exclusively on their own motor vehicles to meet their transport needs. The contributions made by bicycles and buses are very small indeed partly, in the latter case, because the service suffers from serious deficiencies. No real increase in usage of the bus service is likely until significant improvements are made.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

The questions on road safety and speeding drew a very strong response. There are very real problems, particularly on the main B3092 road where the preferred solution is a reduction of the existing speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. It should be noted that the Parish Council has been urging this measure for at least seven years.

In view of the serious dangers to pedestrians on the stretch of road between Hinton St Mary and Sturminster Newton, the insertion there of a new speed limit of 40mph is also supported. It should be noted that the creation of a footway/cycleway along this stretch is on the County Council's list but has yet to be funded.

Traffic problems at the Higher Cross junction and on The Street and Village Road underlie the suggestion by a minority of extending the speed limit throughout the

village.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Occasional vandalism on a relatively small scale is more of an irritant than a pervasive problem in the parish. Speeding and the failure to enforce existing limits is of much more general concern. The widespread concern about theft appears to be more a question of fear than of actual experience; particularly since the rejuvenation of the Home Watch scheme, very few incidents have been reported in the parish. It seems that the fear of theft and concerns about the enforcement of speed limits are exacerbated by the lack of any regularly visible police coverage.

HEALTH SERVICES

The parish community seems to be well satisfied with the health services mentioned in the appraisal. The ambulance service was the least well rated - perhaps because of the urgency of the need when it arises. Very few members of the community are registered as disabled but it may be their need that accounts for a relatively high level of dissatisfaction with equipment loans.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

On balance, the community is very well satisfied with its supplies of mains water and electricity, although there were one or two adverse comments on water quality. In contrast, the balance of opinion is that roadside care, street cleaning and snow clearance services are less than reasonable.

COMMUNICATIONS

The community is generally well satisfied with its communications facilities. However, significant weaknesses were

noted in respect of the number of post boxes, the speed of the postal service and the reception of mobile telephone, television and radio signals.

TOURISM AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

Residents of the parish value their countryside very highly indeed and increased tourism is only supported provided it is limited to the enjoyment of the countryside as it already exists.

THE CHURCH

In light of the numbers normally attending, a surprisingly large number of residents value the parish church for its religious functions; but, whether or not they attend, a majority values it as a fixture of the community. This is not surprising: the church is one of only three community resources remaining in the parish (the others are the cricket pavilion and public house).



PARISH ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES AND FINANCE

Information on what is going on in the parish circulates reasonably well, with the parish newsletter (The Mosaic) and word of mouth acting as the main sources. Specifically on the question of information

on the Parish Council's activities, the community is generally well satisfied.

Only a minority of residents have ever attended meetings of the Council or the Annual Parish Assembly and it is perhaps for this reason that fewer than half know how the parish precept is spent or have any opinion on it. Nevertheless, fewer than half are in favour of even moderate increases to fund possible community projects. Other ways of fundraising are strongly preferred.

There is strong support for the provision of a parish meeting place that can be used for a variety of purposes, with a large majority in favour of adapting the cricket pavilion.



PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

The children of 11-15 years old participate in an extraordinarily wide range of games, sports, hobbies, interests and societies. Apart from those they can pursue at home, there is provision in the parish for only one of these interests. For the remainder, they must go outside the parish. In doing so, as well as seeing their friends, they rely mainly on travel by car. There is a case for providing more children's facilities in the parish (see above) and the proposed parish meeting place might present an opportunity to do so. It should be noted that the number of children in the parish is increasing.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

On balance, residents of Hinton St Mary feel that, if it has changed at all, the quality of life in the parish is rather worse than it was 10 years ago. They set great store by the environment and the community and they want it to stay as it is. If it is to develop, they want a working community. They do not want the parish to develop as a centre of tourism or a retirement community.



HINTON ST MARY PARISH APPRAISAL

AIM

The aim of the appraisal was to obtain a portrait of the community and an account of its views on a range of issues.

PREPARATION

The Parish Council first considered an appraisal in 1999 but it was not until 2001 that the resources needed to carry it out could be assembled. With the strong support of Dorset Community Action, partial funding was provided by the Community Projects Fund and the software developed by Cheltenham College was obtained. This software allowed a selection to be made from a list of 300 standard questions, with the selected questions divided between household and personal sections of a questionnaire.

After considering the many possible topics that might be included in the appraisal as well as the experiences of other communities, it was decided that the personal section of the questionnaire should be divided into two parts, one directed at everyone of 16 years old and upwards and the other at children of 11-15 years old. It was also decided that:

- A total of no more than 80 questions should be asked.
- Within this limit and without unbalancing the appraisal, the concerns of the housing department of North Dorset District Council should be covered.
- Up to 65 questions should be

selected from the standard list with their wording tailored to Hinton St Mary where possible.

- The remaining 15 questions (the maximum allowed by the software) should be specific to Hinton St Mary.
- The additional questions included in the children’s personal section should all be specific to the community.

The questionnaire that was eventually developed consisted of a household section of 12 questions, a main personal section of 54 questions and a young persons section of 11 questions.

CONDUCT

The intention was to deliver questionnaires to every one of the parish’s 100 dwellings and to obtain responses from every eligible person shortly before the National Census. In the event, questionnaires were successfully delivered to 95 dwellings. Of the remainder, four were vacant at the time of the appraisal and the occupants of one were absent throughout.

Of the questionnaires delivered, recoveries were as follows:			
	Household Section	Main Personal Section	Young Persons Section
Questionnaires Delivered	<i>95</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>10</i>
Completed Returns Obtained	<i>90</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>10</i>
Success Rate (%)	<i>95</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 1

Completed returns to the main personal section did not necessarily include answers to every question. In many cases this was because answers to some questions invited respondents to skip others; and, in other cases, respondents chose not to answer particular questions. Nevertheless, the overall response to the appraisal was sufficient to provide a reasonably reliable portrait of the community and a comprehensive account of its concerns. The value of this account was much improved by the personal comments added to many returns.

Analysis of the returns was based on the data processing package included in the software. This enabled a database to be created from which straightforward counts of the answers to each question could easily be generated. In some cases, it also allowed counts of the answers to different questions to be compared. So, for example, counts of the answers to questions concerning housing development could quite easily be distributed according to the age groups of respondents or their length of residence in Hinton St Mary. Unfortunately, this capability did not extend to comparisons of the answers to

every possible pair of questions. In particular, the software forbids comparisons between the answers to questions in the household and personal sections; and so, for example, counts of the answers to questions concerning housing development distributed according to household composition could not be derived from the software. A further limitation was that simple counts of the answers to particular questions were not always sufficient fully to exploit the information they contained. For all of these reasons, it was frequently necessary to subject information contained in the data base to alternative forms of analysis. This, together with the need to collate the comments added to returns, was unexpectedly time-consuming.

Analysis of the appraisal having been completed, the results were circulated to every organisation with a responsibility or interest in the provision of services to the parish community. Their comments were sought and the responses of those that replied are summarised in the following report.

Dorset Community Action Response.
The report is detailed and concise. All aspects of community need appear to have been addressed. The Executive Summary is particularly useful in that it brings out some of the key findings of the appraisal that might otherwise have been lost if the report had been merely statistical.

RESULTS

Simple counts of the answers to every question, together with a summary of all the comments relating to each question, are

annexed to this report. Where appropriate, more detailed treatments of the results are included in the following discussion.

DISCUSSION

COMMUNITY PROFILE

In the 90 households that responded to the questionnaire:

- A total of 213 people were normally resident.
- The number of people per household ranged from one to five, with an overall average of 2.37.
- There was a nearly even ratio of males to females (104:109).
- The average age was 42 years old. There were 28 children (13%), 120 young persons and adults of working age (56%) and 65 adults beyond normal retiring age (31%).
- 94% of those who responded to the personal section of the questionnaire were permanently resident.



Lengths of residence in Dorset and Hinton St Mary were as follows:

Proportion of Respondents (%)

Length of Residence	In Dorset	In Hinton St Mary
Less than a year	6	13
1-15 years	34	59
16+ years	60	28

Table 2

Dorset County Council Response.

Over 10% of residents were aged 75 years and older. Since this is typical of North Dorset, it may be that Hinton St Mary does not consider itself to be unusual; but, in reality, it is a very high proportion that suggests the need to ensure that services are available and accessible to a population that may be becoming less mobile. Among other things, it means that Social Services, which are predominantly based in market towns, continue to face the challenge of providing an equitable level of service for older and disabled people in rural communities.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Of the 213 residents recorded in the survey, 45 (21%) were in education or training:

Pre-School Education. Eight of the nine children aged 0-4 years old were in play groups or nursery schools.

Primary and Secondary Education. All 22 of the children and young persons aged 5-17 years old were attending primary school, secondary school or sixth form college.

University. Nine of the 14 young adults aged 18-24 years old were at university.

Other Education and Training. Six people were attending other courses of training.

With the possible exception of informal playgroups for very young children, everyone seeking education or training had to travel outside the parish to find it. Three people had left the community for this reason; and problems of distance and transport meant that four children could not take part in after school activities.

Comment. *Casual observers may be surprised by the numbers of children and their immediate seniors who live in the parish. This may be because nearly all of their education and most of their organised out-of-school activities take place outside the parish. There is undoubtedly a strong case for the provision of at least some children's facilities within the parish.*

EMPLOYMENT

Of the 172 people of 16 years old and upwards who responded to the main personal section of the questionnaire, nine were in full time education and one was in both full time education and part time employment. Among the remainder, 62 (38%) were beyond normal retiring age, although seven (three men and four women) were still working. The 100 who had not yet reached normal retiring age and were not in full time education were occupied as follows:

Occupation	Males (16-64 years old)	Females (16-59 years old)	Totals
Self employed	15	4	19
Employed full time	28	20	48
Employed part time	2	13	15
Housewife		12	12
Retired	5	1	6
Totals	50	50	100

Table 3

Excluding those solely occupied in full time education but including everyone else, places of occupation were as follows:

Occupation	Males	Females	Totals
Self employed	16	5	21 (13%)
Employed in the parish	10	6	16 (10%)
Employed elsewhere	23	30	53 (33%)
Housewife / husband	1	19	20 (12%)
Retired	27	26	53 (33%)
Totals	77	86	163

Table 4

Of those in employment:

- 37 (41%) worked in or from the parish and 53 (59%) worked

elsewhere. Nine people were reported to have moved away in search of employment and four said that they needed to move for

employment reasons. In addition, two people were looking for larger working premises outside the parish and one felt that the needs of his business would take him elsewhere.

- 41 (46%) were women, 14 of whom had sole or shared responsibility for households with children of pre-school or school age. Nine of these women were in part time employment and nine were employed outside the parish.

On the question of more jobs becoming available in the parish, 52% of all respondents (or 85% of those who expressed an opinion) were in favour. There was no real difference between men and women of normal working age

who expressed an opinion: overall, the majority in favour was 69:8. There was a marked difference, however, among those beyond normal retiring age: women were in favour by 14:3 but men by only 7:5.

As to how more jobs might be made available:

- 66% of all respondents (or 75% of those who expressed an opinion) thought that there was room for a few more small scale workshops in the parish, although some reservations were expressed.
- 44% of all respondents (or 63% of those who expressed an opinion) thought that tourism should be encouraged and a further 21% felt that some sort of policy was needed.

Summary and Comment. *There appear to be no insuperable problems of employment although, without a significant number of self-employed, only a small minority would be working in the parish. Most residents of Hinton St Mary find employment elsewhere and this has resulted in a small but steady stream of losses to the community. There is a strong desire for more jobs in the parish and reasonable agreement that more small scale workshops and more tourism might provide a way forward. The fact that slightly more women are in favour of these measures than men may indicate that working women with children of pre-school and school age would prefer to work closer to home.*

North Dorset District Council Response. *The Council is interested in the very strong support for more local jobs and for small scale workshops in the parish. Some starter units are due to be built in North Dorset Business Park. The existing units at Sturminster Newton are mostly larger. It would have been useful to find out where people from Hinton St Mary work so that it could have been related to the transport issue.*

HOUSING

Of the 90 dwellings from which responses were received, 88 were occupied as a household's main residence.

Of the 166 individuals who responded, 16 (10%) said that they needed alternative accommodation. In four cases, the main reason for wanting to move was employment and, in four other cases, at least one of the reasons for moving was to

reduce accommodation costs. Five people were reported to have moved away in search of affordable housing and 10 households said that members of their close family would want to live in the parish if suitable accommodation was available. The strong attachment of residents to Hinton St Mary is indicated by the fact nearly everyone needing to move wanted to remain in or close to the parish.

Of the dwellings occupied as main residences, 62 (70%) were owner occupied and, of the people needing to move, 13 (81%) wanted owner occupied houses or bungalows.

Three people needing to move wanted accommodation for rent or shared ownership. Costs and the availability of suitable properties were the main reasons why people wanting to move were unable to do so.



Of the 117 people who expressed an opinion on housing development in the parish during the last 10 years, a small minority (6%) thought there had been too little. The majority (65%) were generally satisfied although many thought that the houses that had been built were too big (22%) and/or too expensive (52%). A large minority (29%) thought that too many houses had been built. There was a significant relationship between satisfaction

with the amount of housing development that had occurred and length of residence in the parish. Those who had lived in the parish for more than 15 years were less satisfied.

As for the possibility of more new housing in the parish, 59% of all respondents (or 72% of those who expressed an opinion) thought that it would spoil the environment and this opinion was more strongly held by those who had lived in the parish for more than 15 years. Among those who thought that it would improve or, at any rate, not change the environment there were many reservations about the number, type and location of any houses that might be built.

On the question of new housing to meet the needs of local people, 67% of all respondents had no objection, although there were many reservations about the type and location of the housing in question and its accessibility to genuinely local people. As for the people for whom new housing might be provided, the perceived need was as follows:

Housing Need	% of all respondents	% of Those who Expressed an Opinion
Young people	60	87
Families	58	87
The elderly	24	50

Table 5

Summary and Comment.

Almost all the dwellings in the parish are occupied as main residences, with 70% owner occupied and most of the

remainder privately rented. The amount of accommodation that is available does not appear to be a problem (four of the community's 100 dwellings were vacant at the time of the appraisal).

The community is generally satisfied with the amount of new housing that has been built in the past 10 years but a majority thinks that it has been too expensive. Significant minorities also think that there has been too much development and that the houses that have been built are too big. There is a strong feeling that further housing development would spoil the environment. It should be noted that consents exist for three new houses that have yet to be built.

A small but steady stream of people has been continuing to leave the parish in search of affordable housing and, in many cases, it seems that they would want to return if suitable accommodation were available. Despite general opposition to further housing development, a strong majority would have no objection to new housing that met the needs of genuinely local people, with a strong bias in favour of young people and families. In this connection, it should be noted that less than 30% of the population has lived in the parish for more than 15 years.

North Dorset District Council Response.

The focus on housing issues and the prior consultation with the North Dorset Rural Housing Enabler are welcomed. Within the settlement boundary there is a presumption in

favour of development, subject to other material considerations such as the need to conserve or enhance the character of the conservation area. It is therefore difficult for the planning authority to refuse an application for larger houses within the village, simply on the grounds that more large houses are not seen to be needed. However, we will need to ensure that any new houses respect the scale, form and character of adjacent development.

Despite commenting that "the amount of accommodation that is available does not appear to be a problem" (on the grounds that four properties were vacant at the time of the appraisal), the analysis goes on to demonstrate that affordability is a major issue. The survey shows that a steady stream of people who would prefer to stay in Hinton St Mary have been leaving the parish in search of affordable housing. On the basis of these results it would be possible to justify a small (three or four unit) affordable housing scheme to meet the needs of local newly forming households. However, sustainability issues such as access to facilities, services, employment and transport would have to be addressed.

The appraisal shows a fairly high proportion of private rented housing in the village and, clearly, the character of the village could change significantly if ownership of these properties changed.

TRANSPORT

The average per household of the number of cars/vans regularly used by the community was 1.5 and, for 96% of respondents, the car was the main means of transport. Only 34% shared their cars

with other people, mainly for shopping and social/leisure activities.

The average per household of the number of bicycles in regular use was 0.5. They were the main means of transport for only 2% of respondents to the main personal section of the questionnaire but, for children, they were one of the more important ways of travelling to see their friends.

Buses provided the main transport for just 1% of the community although many more expressed opinions on the quality of the service. Reliability and cost were generally thought to be reasonable but other features of the service attracted substantially adverse comment:

Feature Rated as Poor	% of all Respondents	% of Those Who Expressed an Opinion
Timetable	19	66
Access for disabled	7	67
Routes	13	45

Table 6

The deficiencies of the bus service evidently contributed to the occasional or frequent difficulty that 27% of respondents experienced in getting out of the parish to other places.

Summary and Comment. *Residents of the parish depend almost exclusively on their own motor vehicles to meet their transport needs. The contribution made by buses is very small indeed partly because the service*

suffers from serious deficiencies. No real increase in usage of the bus service is likely until significant improvements are made. The contribution of bicycles was also very small although they were important for children travelling to see their friends.

South West Coaches Response.

Bus services have been tried but were not well supported by the villagers because almost everyone living in rural areas has access to a car. It would be for Dorset County Council to decide if they wish to subsidise extra services since the level of service required in order to attract people from their cars would not be commercially viable.

It has to be accepted that most people like having a car because of the perceived freedom it gives and cars do not cause real problems in small villages as they do in larger towns. Until this perception changes radically there does not seem to be much likelihood of any major increase in rural bus transport except for possible express bus links from the larger rural centres.

Dorset County Council Response.

With two daily and a number of weekly services, Hinton St Mary is considered to be well provided with bus services for a village of its size. Short stay journeys to Sturminster Newton are difficult but it is possible to make shopping trips of reasonable length to Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Yeovil and Blandford. In theory, it is also possible to travel to work in Sturminster

Newton, Sherborne, Yeovil, Gillingham and Shaftesbury. Buses through the village also connect with the trains at Gillingham.

Disabled people who can not use the ordinary bus service may wish to consider the new wheelchair-accessible bus scheme called NORDCAT. This is a North Dorset dial-a-ride service for people who are not able to use public transport. An alternative voluntary scheme for elderly or disabled people called Dorset County Cars can be used for essential trips such as visits to the doctor or dentist. Information on both these schemes can be obtained by telephoning 01258 472164.

A Countryside Agency scheme to help rural communities is available in the form of contributions towards the eligible costs of relatively small transport projects. Parish and town councils can apply for grants of up to £10,000 over three years and they can apply jointly to combine funding for larger projects. Further information is available from Dorset Community Action on 01305 216413

North Dorset District Council
Response. *The appraisal underlines the transport problems of North Dorset village communities. NORDCAT and Blackmore Vale Scooter Club offer some possibilities. DART offers small transport grants for driving lessons etc.*

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Danger spots and speeding on the roads in the parish were matters of very serious concern:

- 67% of respondents (75% of those

expressing an opinion) thought there were major danger spots. The main B3092 road attracted most comment, with the junction at Lower Cross and the exit from Nicholsons Cottages most frequently mentioned as the key danger spots. The junction of Old School Lane at Higher Cross was also frequently mentioned.

- 74% of respondents (82% of those expressing an opinion) thought that speeding traffic was a problem. Most were concerned about the B3092 but occasional mention was also made of speeding elsewhere in the village. Although pedestrian facilities in the parish were generally thought to be reasonable, a substantial minority (25% of those expressing an opinion) were not happy. The dangers of crossing the B3092 and of walking between Hinton St Mary and Sturminster Newton were frequently mentioned, with the latter described as an “atrocious” danger spot.
- Although relatively few people had problems of parking at their homes (8% of those expressing an opinion), roadside parking combined with speeding traffic was of particular concern as it affected the exit from Nicholsons Cottages.

There was strong support for a variety of speed control measures:

Measure	Level of Support	
	% of All Respondents	% of Those who Expressed an Opinion
Reduce limit to 30mph	74	87
Traffic calming	27	32
More warning signs	26	30

Table 7

Extension of the speed limit both on the B3092 and elsewhere in the village was also mentioned by some commentators and was supported by 17% of respondents. The particular dangers of the stretch of road between Hinton St Mary and Sturminster Newton drew the suggestion that a speed limit of 40mph was required there.

Summary and Comment.

There are real problems of road safety and speeding in the parish, particularly on the main B3092 road. The preferred solution is a reduction of the existing speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. It should be noted that the Parish Council has been urging this measure for at least seven years.

In view of the serious dangers to pedestrians on the stretch of road between Hinton St Mary and Sturminster Newton, the insertion there of a new speed limit of 40mph is also supported. It should be noted that the creation of a footway/cycleway along this stretch of road is on the

County Council's list but has yet to be funded.

Traffic problems at the Higher Cross junction and on The Street and Village Road underlie the suggestion by a minority of extending the speed limit throughout the village.

Dorset County Council Response.

The Parish Council has formally requested that the existing 40 mph limit through the village be lowered to 30 mph and extended by 50 metres at either end. It has also requested that a new 40 mph limit be imposed between the village and Sturminster Newton. Following a site conference, these proposals are supported in principle by the County Council and will be surveyed and processed as part of normal procedure.

If most children and young people must travel to activities and services outside the village, the need for a pedestrian/cycle path is justified.

CRIME AND DISORDER

66 households (73% of those responding) were able to confirm that they participated in the Home Watch scheme and were displaying stickers.

51% of respondents (62% of those expressing an opinion) thought that police coverage of the parish was poor and 81% of those expressing an opinion were concerned about crime and anti-social behaviour of one sort or another. Respondents were mainly concerned by theft (67%) and vandalism (32%). Drink driving was also mentioned as an offence as was speeding (in addition to the general

concern with speeding as a traffic problem).

Summary and Comment. *Occasional vandalism on a relatively small scale is more of an irritant than a pervasive problem in the parish. Speeding and the failure to enforce existing limits is of much more general concern. The widespread concern about theft appears to be more a question of fear than of actual experience; particularly since the rejuvenation of the Home Watch scheme, very few incidents have been reported in the parish. It seems that the fear of theft and concerns about the enforcement of speed limits are exacerbated by the lack of any regularly visible police coverage.*

Dorset Police Response.

The incidence during the past two years of reported crime and road traffic collision in the parish of Hinton St Mary has been as follows:

	2000	2001
Burglary & theft	5	7
Criminal damage	7	1
Road Traffic collision	0	1
Assault	1	0
Total	13	9

Table 8

These figures only include incidents that were reported to the police and there may have been others that were not reported,. It is not possible even to guess at the number of unreported crimes. Nevertheless, the figures for

reported crime in Hinton St Mary are remarkably close to the aspiration of zero crime and are reducing further. Against this background, it seems that fear of crime far outweighs the reality.

In relation to the strong feelings expressed about speeding, the frustrations of the community are well understood. Speeding and road safety are county-wide issues and the traffic management department of Dorset Police has the task of prioritising where its limited resources should be targeted. The assessment is based on accident statistics and areas that have suffered most accidents will clearly receive priority treatment. This may sound like a case of “Does someone have to be injured before something is done?” but the stark reality is that increased police attention to speeding is unlikely in communities with excellent track records like Hinton St Mary.

Details of the appraisal will be passed to the officers based at Sturminster Newton police station with a view to encouraging them to spend more time in the village. Perhaps, in this way, residents can be reassured and their fears allayed. Public reassurance is very much at the top of the Dorset Police agenda at this time and we are working on a range of initiatives to raise our visible profile in rural areas.



North Dorset District Council Response. *The appraisal's conclusions reinforce the findings of recent district-wide research. The Dorset Community Safety Survey 2001 carried out on behalf of Dorset Police by Opinion Research Services came to similar conclusions when reporting on key findings for the North Dorset District. For example, speeding and reckless driving were the main local concerns followed by people using or dealing with drugs, dog fouling, drink driving, noisy or rowdy youths, graffiti and vandalism. In the same survey, 88% said they rarely or never saw a police officer. The level of fear of crime was also high. The District Crime Reduction Strategy will be founded on these conclusions.*

HEALTH SERVICES

Apart from those visiting the doctor, relatively small numbers of people had made use of the health services covering the parish during the past year. The great majority who had used the services were reasonably well satisfied. For the very few who rated any of the services as poor, the details were as follows:

Service	Usage and Rating	
	% of all Respondents Using Service	% of Users Rating Service as Poor
Doctor	71	4
District Nurse	9	1
Health Visitor	7	0
Ambulance	10	17
Maternity Care	3	0
Chiropody	6	0
Loan of Equipment	4	14

Table 9

4% of respondents were registered as disabled. There were no specific comments concerning health services for the disabled but their problems with the bus service (see above) were noted.

Summary and Comment. *The parish community seems to be well satisfied with the health services mentioned in the appraisal. The ambulance service was the least well rated - perhaps because of the urgency of the need when it arises. Very few members of the community are registered as disabled but it is perhaps their need that accounts for a relatively high level of dissatisfaction with equipment loans.*

Dorset NHS Health Authority and

North Dorset NHS Primary Care Trust Responses.

It is pleasing that the parish community is generally satisfied with the health services mentioned in the appraisal, particularly those provided by the primary care team.

With small numbers using the ambulance service, it is difficult to interpret the level of dissatisfaction that was expressed. It is suspected that it may relate more to routine than to emergency services. The ambulance service reports that, on average, there is one call from Hinton St Mary each month and that these are split evenly between '999' emergencies and urgent requests by general practitioners for the transportation of patients to hospital. For the period 1 October to 31 December 2001, there were two calls on the service relating to Hinton St Mary, one of which was urgent and the other an emergency. In both cases, the national performance targets for response times (of 15 and 8 minutes respectively) were met.

The level of dissatisfaction with equipment loans is less surprising. Work is currently underway on the implementation of new government guidance which requires the complete integration by March 2004 of the community equipment services currently provided by the NHS and Local Authority social service departments. The benefits, for all age groups, will include improved access, information, advice and instruction on an enhanced range of equipment.

Finally, it is hoped that future appraisals will include use by parish

residents of the local community hospital and the general hospitals at Salisbury and Dorchester.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

A very high proportion of respondents expressed opinions on the utilities and other services supplied to the parish. Their ratings of the services in question were as follows:

Service	Rating By Those Who Expressed an Opinion	
	% Rating Service as Good	% Rating Service as Poor
Mains water supply	72	8
Mains electricity supply	62	7
Refuse Collection	83	0
Roadside care/street cleaning	26	32
Snow clearance	24	43

Table 10

Connecting with the relatively poor rating of roadside care, 28 comments were made concerning litter and rubbish on roadside verges, with the main B3092 road and Marriage Lane most often mentioned. Comment was also made on the need for regular clearance of the drains in Marriage Lane.

Summary and Comment. On balance, the community is very well satisfied with its supplies of mains water and electricity, although there were one or

two adverse comments on water quality. In contrast, the balance of opinion is that roadside care, street cleaning and snow clearance services are less than reasonable.

Wessex Water Response.

It is pleasing that, on balance, the community is very well satisfied with its supplies of mains water although 8% rated the service as poor. If details can be provided for each of these 12 cases, it may be possible to take the necessary action to rectify the situation.

As regards the one or two adverse comments on water quality, it is assumed that these relate to hard water. Unfortunately, nothing can be done on this score. Water in the area is naturally hard and there are no alternative sources of supply. A detailed analysis of the water quality supplied to Hinton St Mary during 2001 indicates that it was well within the prescribed values in every respect.



North Dorset District Council Response.

The high approval rating for the District Council's refuse collection service is welcomed.

The poor ratings for roadside care and street cleaning have been investigated. A routine sweep of the streets and roadsides of Hinton St Mary is carried out once every 12 weeks and a responsive service is provided when complaints are received. No complaints were received during the nine months to January 2002. The poor rating of this service may reflect a lack of information from the District Council about how littering and dumping should be reported. This issue will be addressed in the development of the district's customer services. However, residents of the village should be aware that, if the problem is one of mud dropped by farm machinery, then the

farmer or contractor is responsible for removing the debris.

COMMUNICATIONS

The postal service was generally rated as much better than reasonable, but there was not universal satisfaction. Aspects of the service causing most concern were as follows:

Aspects of service Rated as Poor	% of all Respondents	% of Those Who Expressed an Opinion
Number of post boxes	20	22
Speed of service	13	17

Table 11

Although both radio and television reception were also generally rated as better than reasonable, of those who expressed an opinion:

- 11% said that radio reception was poor and 16% had reception difficulties.
- The equivalent figures for television reception were 16% and 30% respectively. Adverse comment was made on BBC1 and Channel 5.

43% of those who expressed an opinion had reception difficulties with mobile telephones.

Summary and Comment. *The community is generally well satisfied with its communications facilities. However, significant weaknesses were noted in respect of the number of post*

boxes , the speed of the postal service and the reception of mobile telephone, television and radio signals.



BBC and Channel 4 Television Responses.

The television reception areas reached by the transmitters at Mendip and Stockland Hill overlap and Hinton St Mary is in their overlap zone. Channels 1, 2, 3 and 4 are served by both transmitters. Channel 5 is served only by the higher powered Mendip transmitter but at lower power than the other channels. The channels for the two transmitters are as follows:

	Mendip	Stockland Hill
BBC1	58	33
BBC2	64	26
HTV West	61	
Westcountry		23
Channel 4	54	29
Channel 5	37	

Table 12

All four of the older services can be received via a Group C/D aerial but, if Channel 5 is also wanted, a Group E

aerial is needed. A Group E aerial will also be required by anyone wanting to receive terrestrial digital services from the Mendip transmitter. In any event, the aerial will have to be pointed in the right direction and to be at sufficient height. A booster might also be needed. The best way to sort all this out is to obtain the services of an aerial technician who is a member of the Confederation of Aerial Industries (www.cai.org.uk)

As far as interference is concerned, any person or organisation causing interference is doing so illegally because they are transmitting, wittingly or otherwise, on a frequency that is not allocated to them. The possible causes of interference are many and varied. Among other things, they include CB operators, pirate radio stations, domestic refrigerators or other domestic appliances and badly installed electric fences. The first step towards solving a problem is to record every instance of interference and establish the pattern (if any). If this pattern suggests a particular source, the next step is to talk to the person who might be concerned. Irrespective of the outcome of this talk, the cheapest solution may be to install a filter between the aerial and booster. In the meantime, any interference should be reported to the Radiocommunications Agency. Good sources of information are available at:

- <http://www.radio.gov.uk/publication/rainfo/ra179/ra179.htm>
- <http://www.radio.gov.uk/publication/rainfo/ra323/ra323.htm>

TOURISM AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

The most nearly unanimous response to

any question in the appraisal concerned the quality of the countryside around the village: 98% of respondents (100% of those who expressed an opinion) rated it as important or very important. Almost equally large majorities said that the wild flowers, birds and wild animals of the countryside were important or very important to them. Those for whom these things were not very important were as follows:

Wildlife Rated Not Very Important	% of all Respondents	% of Those Who Expressed an Opinion
Wild flowers	2	2
Birds	1	1
Wild animals	2	3

Table 13

Although 63% of those who expressed an opinion thought that tourism should be encouraged, majority support for visitor activities was limited to the following:

Favoured Activity	% of Respondents
Walking/rambling	90
Photography/Painting	67
Nature study	58
Horse riding	58
Cycling (on road)	58
Fishing	56

Table 14

The usability and signposting of footpaths

and bridleways was generally very well thought of and 42 respondents said that they would be willing to help maintain them.

Summary and Comment. *Residents of the parish value their countryside very highly indeed and increased tourism is only supported provided it is limited to the enjoyment of the countryside as it already exists.*



North Dorset District Council Comment.

The District's tourism promotion activities are in sympathy with the findings of the parish appraisal. The superb natural environment of North Dorset is the focus of our promotional activities. The District Council would be interested in examining ways in which the countryside can be made more accessible and ways to enable greater understanding of its importance in both landscape and ecological terms. The Countryside Service (funded jointly by the District and County Councils) could be of help in coordinating the activities of the 42 respondents who would be willing to help maintain footpaths and bridleways.

The District Council would be keen to draw out views about the quality of the

village itself and not just the countryside around it. The built environment is something that may perhaps be taken for granted. In reality, both consciously and unconsciously, it affects us all by creating a sense of identity, belonging and pride. Hinton St Mary has many attractive buildings and areas; but recent developments demonstrate the sensitivity and fragility of the village.

THE CHURCH

Of the 160 who said that the parish church was important to them, 55% thought that every village should have one and 74% valued it as an historic building. It was also valued by 40% for Sunday worship and by 54% for baptisms, weddings, funerals and other important family occasions. Answers to this question were not significantly affected by length of residence in the parish.

Summary and Comment. *In light of the numbers normally attending, a surprisingly large number of residents value the parish church for its religious functions; but, whether or not they attend, a majority values it as a fixture of the community. This is not surprising: the church is one of only three community resources remaining in the parish (the others are the cricket pavilion and public house).*

PARISH ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES AND FINANCE

The main sources from which information was usually obtained on what was going on in the parish were as follows:

Source	% of Respondents Using Source
Free Parish Newsletter (The Mosaic)	85
Word of Mouth	67
Free local weekly (The Blackmore Vale)	39
Parish notice board	22
Local paper	20

Table 15

In relation to the activities of the Parish Council:

- 65% of respondents (84% of those expressing an opinion) thought that the Council publicised its decisions and activities reasonably or very well.
- Only 24% of respondents had ever attended a meeting of the Council and only 14% had attended an Annual Parish Assembly. In both cases, a majority of those who had attended were women or people of 45 years old and upwards.
- A total 60% of respondents did not know how the parish precept was spent or had no opinion on it. Of those who expressed an opinion, 87% were satisfied and 13% were dissatisfied.

Where the appraisal resulted in suggestions that required money for their implementation, the preferred ways of

raising it were as follows:

Method of Obtaining Money	% of Respondents in Favour
Fundraising	61
Moderate Council tax increases	43
Sponsorship	38
Private contributions	22

Table 16

The majority (66%) of respondents did not think that a residents association was needed. This opinion was significantly more strongly held by those who had lived in the parish for more than 15 years. The age of respondents made no real difference but there was a significant difference between men and women: most men were against and most women were for the suggestion.

There was strong support (64%) for the provision of a parish meeting place. The purposes for which it was wanted were as follows:

Purpose for which Wanted	% of all Respondents	% of Those Who Expressed an Opinion
Meetings	83	88
Social activities	70	75
Art/craft activities	43	45
Games/keep fit activities	42	45
Playgroup	40	43

Table 17

Of those who thought that provision of a village meeting place would be useful, 90% responded to the question of whether the cricket pavilion should be adapted to this purpose: 86% were in favour. The balance of opinion was not significantly related to age, sex or length of residence in the parish but some commentators insisted that the pavilion must continue to serve its present purpose.

Summary and Comment.

Information on what is going on in the parish circulates reasonably well, with the parish newsletter (The Mosaic) and word of mouth acting as the main sources. Specifically on the question of information on the Parish Council's activities, the community is generally well satisfied.

Only a minority of residents have ever attended meetings of the council or the Annual Parish Assembly and it is perhaps for this reason that fewer than half know how the parish precept is spent or have any opinion on it.

Nevertheless, fewer than half are in favour of even moderate increases to fund possible community projects. Other ways of fundraising are strongly preferred.

There is strong support for the provision of a parish meeting place that can be used for a variety of purposes, with a large majority in favour of adapting the cricket pavilion.

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

The 10 children of 11-15 years who answered the young persons section of the appraisal played a total of 12 games and sports, or an average of three each. There is provision in the parish for only one of these games and sports.

Nine of the children belonged to seven different clubs and societies, all of them outside the parish. They enjoyed 19 different hobbies and, in all but two cases, were able to pursue them at home. They also enjoyed many different kinds of music. Four were learning to play an instrument and one was learning to sing in a choir. For seeing their friends, most relied on parents' or friends' cars.

Despite the lack of provision for their interests (at least outside their own homes), most of the children were happy with their lives in the parish although three thought it very quiet or boring.

Summary and Conclusions. *The children of 11-15 years old participate in an extraordinarily wide range of games, sports, hobbies, interests and societies. Apart from those they can pursue at home, there is provision in the parish for only one of these*

interests. For the remainder, they must go outside the parish and in doing so, as well as seeing their friends, they rely mainly on travel by car. There is a case for providing more children’s facilities in the parish (see above) and the proposed meeting place might present an opportunity to do so. It should be noted that the number of children in the parish is increasing.

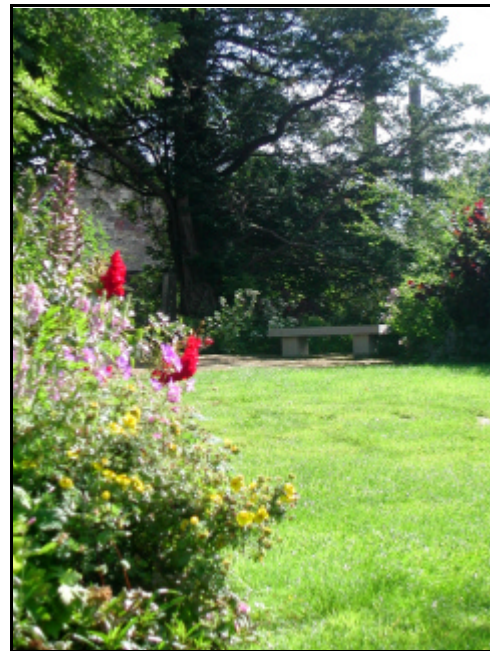
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

On the question of how the quality of life in the parish compared with 10 years ago, 80 of the 164 respondents said that they didn’t know. Almost all of them had lived in Hinton St Mary for less than 10 years. The 78 who had lived longer in the parish and expressed an opinion were divided as follows:

The things that were most important to residents of the parish were the environment (81% of respondents) and the community (60% respondents). The 153 who expressed an opinion wanted it to develop as follows:

Quality of Life	% of Those Who Expressed an Opinion
Better	13
The same	54
Worse	33

Table 18



To stay as it is	70%
To develop as:	
➤ A working community	35%
➤ A tourist centre	5%
➤ A retirement community	5%

Table 19

There was no significant relationship between the opinions expressed and the age or sex of respondents. However, in some respects, opinion was significantly related to length of residence: those who had lived in the parish for more than 15 years were more in favour of it developing as a working community and less in favour of it staying as it is. None of this group wanted it to develop as a tourist centre.

Summary and Comment. On balance, residents of Hinton St Mary feel that, if it has changed at all, their quality of life is rather worse than it was 10 years ago. They set great store by the environment and the community and they want it to stay as it is. If it is to develop, they want a working community; they do not want the parish to develop as a tourist centre or retirement community.



HINTON ST MARY

PARISH APPRAISAL

PART 1:

HOUSEHOLD SECTION

Question 1

<i>Number of households:</i>						90
How many people including children normally live in your household?						
Number in household	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Number of households	18	40	15	16	1	90
Number of people						213
Average per household						2.37

Question 2

<i>Number of households:</i>			90
Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group.			
	Male	Female	
0-4	7	2	
5-10	5	4	
11-15	4	6	
16-17	2	1	
18-24	8	6	
25-44	23	28	
45-59	23	24	
60-64	5	14	
65-74	17	12	
75-84	8	10	
85+	2	2	

Question 3

<i>Number of households:</i>		90
Please enter the number of children under 16 in your household who attend the following :		
Play group	4	
Nursery school	4	
Primary school	12	
Middle school	0	
Secondary school	7	
School for those with special needs	0	
Other	1	

Question 4

<i>Number of households:</i>		90
If any of your children under 16 are unable to take part in after school activities, please give the reasons why :		
Lack of transport home	3	
Distance between home/school	1	
Expense	0	
Special needs not catered for	0	

Question 5

<i>Number of households:</i>		90
Please enter the number of people in your household over 16 who attend the following:		
Sixth form college	3	
University	9	
Training courses	6	

Question 6

<i>Number of households:</i>		90
How many of your household have moved away in search of:		
Affordable housing	5	
Employment	9	
Education/Training	3	
Other (please specify)	1	

Question 7

<i>Number of households:</i>		90
If suitable accommodation were available, would any other member of your close family who does not live in the parish wish to return?		
Yes	10	

Question 8

<i>Number of households:</i>		90
Is your dwelling your household's main residence?		
Yes	88	
No	1	

Question 9

<i>Number of households:</i>	90
Is your dwelling?	
Housing Association rented	3
Private rented	20
Tied housing	3
Owner occupied	62
Shared ownership (part owned/part rented)	0
Other	0

Question 10

<i>Number of households:</i>	90
How many bicycles (used at least once a week) are there in your household?	
Total	44
Average per household	0.49

Question 11

<i>Number of households:</i>	90
How many private cars/vans are used by your household during the week to travel outside Hinton St Mary?	
Total	136
Average per household	1.51

Question 12

<i>Number of households:</i>	90
Is your dwelling within the home Watch Scheme and displaying the Home Watch sticker?	
Yes	66
No	12
Don't know	11

PART 2: PERSONAL SECTION
(Completed by people of 16 years and older)

Yes	No
162	10

Question 13

<i>Number of responses:</i>	172
Are you?	
Male	Female
83	89

Question 14

<i>Number of responses:</i>	172
What age group do you belong to?	
<i>16-17</i>	3
<i>18-24</i>	10
<i>25-44</i>	49
<i>45-59</i>	42
<i>60-64</i>	20
<i>65-74</i>	28
<i>75-84</i>	16
<i>85+</i>	4

Question 15

<i>Number of responses:</i>	172
Are you permanently resident in Hinton St Mary (i.e. more than 4 nights a week)?	

Question 16

<i>Number of responses:</i>	172	
How long have you lived in Dorset and how much of that time has been in Hinton St Mary?		
	In Dorset (Responses: 164)	In Hinton St Mary (Responses: 172)
Less than a year	10	22
1-5 years	23	44
6-15 years	32	57
16-25 years	24	23
26-50 years	36	15
51+ years	3	4
Whole life	36	7

Question 17

<i>Number of responses:</i>	166
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Are you in need of alternative accommodation?	
Yes	No
16	150

Question 18

<i>Number of responses:</i>	14
Why do you need to move?	
For employment reasons	4
For education	0
For elderly or disabled needs	1
For medical needs	0
For social reasons	0
To move to a more urban area	1
To move to a cheaper home	1
To move to a larger home	1
To move to a smaller home	1
To move to a better area	0
Forced to move	0
Other (please specify)	5
Other: Joining up with partner (1)	
Eventually to buy own property	(2)
To buy house with land	(2)

Question 19

<i>Number of responses:</i>	14
Where do you want to move to?	
Another dwelling in Hinton St Mary	5
Outside Hinton St Mary but within 10 miles	8
Over 10 miles away from Hinton St Mary	1
Comment: Depends on needs of business. Would love to be in Hinton but more likely elsewhere (1)	

Question 20

<i>Number of responses:</i>	15
What type of housing do you need?	
Flat	0
House	11
Bungalow	2
Specially adapted housing	0
Sheltered accommodation	0
Other (please specify)	2

Other: Work home with larger building for studio	(2)
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Question 21

<i>Number of responses:</i>	15
On what terms would you want to occupy that housing?	
Private rented	2
Local authority rented	0
Housing association rented	1
Owner occupied	13
Shared ownership (part owned/part rented)	3

Question 22

<i>Number of responses:</i>	12
If you are unable to move to accommodation of the type you need, is this because of?	
Price	5
Nothing suitable on the market	8
Lack of local authority/housing association homes	0
Lack of private rented accommodation	0
Lack of physically accessible accommodation	0
No suitable sheltered housing	0
Unable to afford the costs of moving	2
Other financial commitments	3
Other (please specify) (0)	

Question 23

<i>Number of responses:</i>	172
Are you?	
Employed full-time within the parish	12
Employed part-time within the parish	4
Employed full-time elsewhere	38
Employed part-time elsewhere	15
Self employed	21
A housewife or husband	20
Retired	53
Student	9

Question 24

<i>Number of responses:</i>	172
Would you like to see more jobs becoming available in the parish?	

Yes	90
No	16
No opinion	66
Comments: Not sure how	
Environmentally oriented	(1)

Question 25

Number of responses:	172
How do you feel about tourism in the parish?	
It should be encouraged	75
It should be discouraged	9
Some sort of policy is needed	36
No opinion	52
Comments: It should be accepted but not encouraged. It is more interesting, if one is a tourist, to find places oneself rather than be directed to them	
	(1)

Question 26

Number of responses:	158
What visitor activities do you think are suited to the parish?	
Walking/rambling	142
Horse riding	91
Cycling (on road)	91
Cycling (off road)	44
Nature study	92
Photography/painting	106
Fishing	88
Shooting	67
Other (please specify)	4
Comments: The current level is about right	
	(1)
Nothing too strenuous (for them) or noisy (for us)	(1)
Promotion of the Manor House and the whole tradition of the village ie a very rural and close community	(1)

Question 27

Number of responses:	172
Which of the following is your main means of transport?	
Car	164
Bike	4
Bus	2
Train	0

Question 28

Do you experience the following parking problems at your home?			
	Yes	No	No. of responses
Nowhere to park :	11	134	145
Cars blocking your entrance	25	126	151

Question 29

Number of responses:	165
Do you experience transport difficulties in getting out of Hinton St Mary to other places?	
Often	8
Occasionally	37
Never	120
Comments: Almost impossible via public transport	
	(1)
No transport when young people or relatives who don't drive stay	(1)
Not enough buses	(1)

Question 30

Number of responses:	58
Do you share private vehicles with other people for?	
Taking children to school/college	8
Travelling to work	13
Shopping	22
Social and leisure activities	43
Other	8
Other: Country car driver	
	(1)

Question 31

Number of responses:	172	
Do you think there are any major 'danger-spots' on the roads in Hinton St Mary ?		
Yes	116	
No	38	
No opinion	18	
Danger spots identified:	Narrow bend in Castlemans Lane	(2)
	Speeding in whole village	(3)

	Old School Lane junction at Higher Cross	(17)
	Main B3092 road	(89)
particularly:	Lower Cross	(21)
	Nicholsons Cottages exit	(19)
	Hinton- Sturminster road	(6)
	Veals Lane junction	(3)

Question 32

Number of responses:		172
Do you think speeding traffic is a problem in Hinton St Mary ?		
Yes		128
No		31
No opinion		18
Comments: No speed restrictions within the village		(1)
Speeding traffic is more of an issue than whether or not cars are parked on pavements		(1)
The 40mph limit should apply between Hinton and Sturminster		(1)



Question 34

How do you rate the bus service?					
	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion	No. of responses
Routes	4	24	23	121	172
Timetable	3	14	33	22	172
Reliability	6	18	10	38	172
Cost	9	16	8	139	172
Access for those with disabilities	2	4	12	148	166
Comments: Don't use it. From what I hear, it's hopeless					(1)
There should be more					(1)
The outward service is good but, coming back, one often has to wait several hours for the return journey					(1)

Question 33

Number of responses:		168
Would you support the following speed control measures in Hinton St Mary ?		
Extension of the speed limit		28
Reducing the speed limit to 30mph		125
Traffic calming		46
More road warning signs		44
None of the above		22
Comments: 30mph speed limit throughout the village		(6)
30mph limit possibly more sensible given farm machinery traffic		(1)
Speed cameras on main road		(2)
40mph limit between Hinton and Sturminster		(1)
Add rumble strips		(1)
Add large "40" signs painted on road		(1)
Traffic calming on both B3092 and Village Road		(1)
There are already too many over-long 30mph sections in North Dorset and too many slow drivers. Lights that indicate when vehicles are exceeding 40mph are effective		(1)

purpose	
Reasonable except for crossing the main road in the face of speeding traffic	(3)
Poor where cars are parked on pavements	(1)
Would be improved by traffic calming	(1)
Back roads are very muddy and need verges clearing to maintain width	(1)

Question 36

Number of responses:	172
What do you think about the number of houses that have been built in Hinton St Mary over the last 10 years?	
About right	76
Too much new housing	35
Too little new housing	7
Too expensive	61
Too big	26
Too small	0
No opinion	24
Comments: No more please	
Number about right but the design of some leaves much to be desired	(1)
Too many, too big, too expensive = ruining an old village	(1)
No objection to some careful planning but not the present miscellaneous mix	(1)
Mostly poorly suited to the village	(1)

Question 35

Number of responses:	172
How do you rate facilities for pedestrians in Hinton St Mary?	
Good	24
Reasonable	99
Poor	40
No opinion	9
Comments: Atrocious/dangerous/poor between Hinton and Sturminster . With no footway and speeding traffic combined with an often muddy road , it is not possible to walk safely to Sturminster for work or any other	
	(10)

Question 37

Number of responses:	171
Do you think more new housing in Hinton St Mary would?	
Improve the environment	15
Spoil the environment	101
Bring no change to the environment	24
No opinion	31
Comments: Improve the environment if it was the right kind of development. Small scale, carefully designed and intended for people who have difficulty affording local accommodation would be OK: not more expensive houses	
Depends on what sort of development	(1)
Depends on which side were to be developed - perhaps the valley side and more choice for first time buyers	(1)
As long as the style is fitting with the environment	(1)
If built on brownfield sites and kept in character	(1)
Depends where	(3)
Depends on price. The main problem is that there are no facilities to support much more building. I would not agree with sheltered housing	(1)

Depends on the number and type of housing. Should be only small scale developments and infill	(1)
No change if limited to existing planning permissions	(1)
No difference if on limited scale	(1)

Question 38

Number of responses:	172
Would you have any objections in principle to new housing which might help to meet the housing needs of local people?	
Yes	34
No	116
No opinion	22
Comments: What local people?	
There are very few "local" people left in the village	(1)
It is so difficult to ensure that the housing provided would be used for Hinton people	(1)
It never happens. New housing is inevitably too expensive for local people. It is always purchased by outsiders	(1)
We were told that the houses in Old School Lane would sell for about £40,000 and provide accommodation for local people. The selling price was over twice this and the houses were mostly purchased by outsiders	(1)
It must be well designed	(2)
Not too much	(2)
Depends on siting	(1)
Not housing association or sheltered housing	(1)
Sceptical that council could meet these needs satisfactorily	(1)

Question 39

Number of responses:	148				
If some new housing were to be built in Hinton St Mary, what sort do you think would be most needed?					
	For Rent	For Sale	For Shared	Not Needed	No Opinion
Housing for young people	51	40	13	15	29
Housing for families	24	65	11	15	32
Housing for the elderly	20	18	3	41	65
Comment: Young people need low cost housing because of poor pay in the area. There is nothing to encourage families to move into the village					(1)

Question 40

Number of responses:	153
Do you think there is room for a few more small scale workshops in the parish?	
Yes	114
No	39
Comments: There will be enough when the development at Lower Cross is finished	
More are to be built although there is	(13)

an excess in Sturminster	
The parish has so far failed to promote workshops on a small enough scale	(1)
Must be carefully designed - not like the new Poisedale building which is more suited to a Birmingham industrial estate than a village conservation area	(1)
Let's make all the yards tidy and well run	(1)



Question 41

Have you used any of the following services that cover Hinton St Mary in the last year?					
	Often	Occasionally	Never	Not Applicable	No. of responses
Doctor	25	97	41	2	165
District Nurse	2	13	106	11	132
Health Visitor	4	8	96	16	124
Home help	0	0	98	26	124
Ambulance	1	17	105	12	135
Maternity care	3	3	88	30	124
Chiropody	2	8	102	15	127
Loan of medical equipment	0	7	100	21	128

Question 42

If you have used any of the following services which cover Hinton St Mary during the last year, how do you rate the service?					
	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion	No. of responses
Doctor	79	33	5	4	121
District Nurse	10	2	1	14	27
Health visitor	9	3	0	13	25
Home help	0	0	0	13	13
Ambulance	10	4	3	10	27
Maternity care	4	2	0	13	19
Chiropody	6	3	0	13	22
Loan of medical equipment	3	3	1	13	23

Question 43

<i>Number of responses:</i>	169
Are you registered as disabled?	
Yes	6

No	163
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Question 44

<i>Number of responses:</i>	172
Do you regard the police coverage of Hinton St Mary to be?	

Good	15	
Reasonable	39	
Poor	88	
No opinion	30	
Comments: Reasonable except for speeding		(1)
Instead of issuing tickets for parking on pavements, why don't they do something about persistent speeding		(1)
No coverage noticed		(2)
Non existent		(1)

Question 45

Number of responses:		159
Which, if any, of the following crimes and anti-social behaviour concern you in Hinton St Mary ?		
Theft		107
Vandalism		51
Other (please specify)		14

Not concerned	39	
Other: Speeding		(4)
Speeding by heavy vehicles		(2)
Fast cars and motorbikes racing through the village with loud radios		(1)
Drink driving		(5)
Vandalism only on a small scale thank goodness		(1)
Landscape degradation arising from an excessively industrial approach to agriculture and shockingly badly designed new industrial buildings		(1)
People walking their dogs on the cricket field and leaving their mess there		(1)
Unsupervised children allowed to run free, excessive noise, barking dogs in the early morning		(1)
Litter		(1)

Question 46

What are your views on the standard of the following services in Hinton St Mary ?					
	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion	Number of responses
Mains water supply	110	30	12	17	169
Mains electricity supply	97	49	11	13	170
Refuse collection	132	27	0	11	170
Roadside care/street cleaning	39	62	48	21	170
Winter weather service (snow clearance)	26	36	47	47	156
TV reception	70	62	26	12	170
Radio reception	82	59	17	13	171
Comments: Radio reception normally good but problems since April 2001. Blips causing interference					(1)
We need cable TV, gas, a mobile telephone mast and far less cables on poles					(1)
Poor quality water					(2)
Very hard water: needs filtering for drinks					(1)
ITV/Channel 4 good, BBC2 reasonable, BBC1 poor					(2)
Drains in Marriage Lane need regular cleaning					(1)

Question 47

Number of responses:					172
How do you rate the postal service for Hinton St Mary ?					
	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion	
Number of post boxes	47	77	34	14	
Number of deliveries	69	77	15	11	
Number of collections	65	81	14	11	
Speed of service	55	68	23	26	
Other (please specify)	0	0	2	9	

<i>Comments:</i> Late delivery time	(3)
An additional post box in the centre of the village would be helpful	(4)
The post box is too small for my 20-30 A4 envelopes each day	(1)

Question 48

<i>Number of responses:</i>			172
Do you have any reception difficulties with the following?			
	Yes	No	No Opinion
Radio	27	139	6
TV	50	115	7
Mobile Telephone	59	75	36
<i>Comments:</i> Interference since March 2001, usually pm. Is this due to a very high CB aerial recently erected nearby? It is a blot on the landscape anyway			(1)
Channel 5 unobtainable			(1)
Can't receive local West Country TV - only ITV			(1)
Would like to have news of the South - not Bristol (HTV) all the time			(1)

Question 49

<i>Number of responses:</i>		33
Are there any places where litter is a problem in Hinton St Mary ? If so, where?		
Main road (with particular mention of the bus shelter area, the post box lay by, the stretch of road from the village to Yewstock and rubbish discarded from passing traffic)		18
Marriage Lane, Leigh Lane and the coalyard area		7
Hedgerow rubbish from farm machinery and fallen dead elms on back roads		1
Dog mess (with particular mention of Stearts Lane)		4
Spar Copse verges		1
Footpaths and back lanes		4
Veals Lane		1
Nicholsons Cottages footpath		1
Cutt Mill		3
Cricket pavilion area		1
Rubbish dumped in Secret Garden		1
It is unfortunate that some verges (eg Twinwood Lane) are used for dumping rubble. These verges retain populations of plants that have been sprayed out of adjoining fields		1

Question 50

<i>Number of responses:</i>		172
How important is the quality of the countryside around Hinton St Mary to you?		
Very important		144
Important		24
Not very important		0
No opinion		4

Question 51

<i>Number of responses:</i>		172
How important are the wild plants, birds and animals of the countryside around Hinton St Mary to you?		

	Very important	Important	Not Very Important	No Opinion
Wild flowers	126	35	3	8
Birds	136	26	2	8
Wild Animals	124	29	4	14
Never see any	0	0	0	0
Comments: Let's stop the agricultural wilderness and wholesale shooting in the village. Death hangs heavy				(1)

Question 52

Number of responses:				172
In relation to local footpaths and bridleways, can you answer the following questions?				
	Yes	No	No Opinion	
Do you know where the local paths are?	137	20	15	
Can you use them without difficulty?	113	24	35	
Are they well signposted?	115	13	44	
Would you be willing to help maintain them	42	82	48	
Comments: Can't use them with push chairs				(1)

Question 53

Number of responses:		166
Where do you usually get information about events taking place in Hinton St Mary ?		
Notice Board	37	
The Mosaic	141	
Local paper	34	
Free paper	64	
Word of mouth	112	
Other	1	
Comments: Word of mouth often mentioned the White Horse Inn		
Other = posters or flyers	(1)	
The Mosaic is very good	(1)	
We don't get information because nothing happens outside the pub and church	(1)	

Question 54

Number of responses:		172
Have you ever attended a meeting of the parish council?		
Yes	41	
No	131	

Question 55

Number of responses:		170
Have you ever attended the Annual Parish Meeting which is open to all the electors of the Parish?		
Yes	23	
No	147	

Question 56

Number of responses:		172
How well does the parish council publicise its decisions and activities?		
Very well	18	
Reasonably well	94	
Badly	22	
No opinion	38	
Comment: Does the Parish Council ever fight for anything important?		(1)

Question 57

<i>Number of responses:</i>	<i>172</i>
The parish council is empowered to raise money through the council tax. Are you satisfied with the way this money is spent?	
Very satisfied	<i>12</i>
Quite satisfied	<i>47</i>
Quite dissatisfied	<i>8</i>
Very dissatisfied	<i>1</i>
Don't know how it is spent	<i>82</i>
No opinion	<i>22</i>



Question 58

<i>Number of responses:</i>	<i>152</i>
If suggestions raised by the questionnaire require money for implementation, where should that money come from?	
Private contributions	<i>33</i>
Moderate council tax increases	<i>66</i>
Higher council tax increases	<i>2</i>
Fundraising	<i>92</i>
Sponsorship	<i>58</i>
Other (please specify)	<i>7</i>
Comments: Other = lottery	<i>(2)</i>
= government grants	<i>(3)</i>
= County Council should maintain roads, drains and winter gritting	<i>(1)</i>
= better use of existing Council Tax	<i>(2)</i>
They would need to be good suggestions	<i>(1)</i>
Fundraising for particular activities	<i>(1)</i>
We pay enough Council Tax	<i>(1)</i>
I would support fundraising for putting all cables underground	<i>(1)</i>
Surely traffic controls are part of Council Tax and housing should involve an independent developer	<i>(1)</i>
Moderate Council Tax increases as long as people see a benefit in and around where they live	<i>(1)</i>
This really depends on the project. If for the benefit of the whole village, by Council Tax increase, otherwise fundraising	<i>(1)</i>
If there is no cash in the piggy bank then you can't implement anything	<i>(1)</i>
The question is too general	<i>(1)</i>

Question 59

<i>Number of responses:</i>	160
Is the parish church important to you?	
For Sunday worship	64
For baptisms weddings and funerals	86
As an historic building	119
Every village should have one	88
Other (please specify)	4
Comments: Other = Easter, Christmas and other important religious festivals	
= subject to a reasonable vicar who ensures services are suitable for children at least once a month	(1)
= as a meeting place when a village hall does not exist	(1)
= as a place for peaceful reflection	(1)
Because I'm a Christian	(1)

Question 60

<i>Number of responses:</i>	138
Is a residents association needed in Hinton St Mary?	
Yes	47
No	91
Comments: Possibly, but I feel there is already an informal group	
Already have the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council	(1)

Question 61

<i>Number of responses:</i>	117
Would a village meeting place be useful in Hinton St Mary for any of the following?	
Meetings	97
Art/craft activities	50
Playgroup	47
Social activities	82
Games/keep fit activities	49
Other (please specify)	2
No opinion	7
Comments: Other = hiring out for parties	
It would be useful to provide an alternative to more expensive options. Good luck	(1)

Question 62

<i>Number of responses:</i>	169
If you think a village meeting place would be useful, do you think the cricket pavilion should be adapted to this purpose?	
Yes	90
No	15
Don't know	64
Comments: Only if the pavilion is still available to the cricketers, and there is help and support for the club including pavilion upkeep costs	
	(3)

A more central location would be better especially during the winter when the ability to walk there safely could be addressed	(1)
What about using the church if the pews were removed. That's what it was built for in the first instance - as a place for both worship and daily needs such as markets	(1)
An open meeting place (eg playground) is needed. Another site should be found, preferably in the field behind Nicholsons Cottages if not affecting look of the village	(1)

Question 63

<i>Number of responses:</i>	171
If a community shop were opened in Hinton St Mary how often would you use it?	
Weekly	77
Monthly	0
Occasionally	62
Would not use	7
Don't know	25
Comments: Up to daily (eg for milk and papers)	
Selling what?	(1)
Impossible to comment. It would depend on prices and what was available	(1)
Occasionally but, as I get older, much more often	(1)

Question 64

<i>Number of responses:</i>	162
What is most important to you about Hinton St Mary ?	
The community	98
The environment	132
Other (please specify)	0
Not sure	16
Comments: Nice place to live	
Being a small village	(1)

Question 65

<i>Number of responses:</i>	165
How is the quality of life in Hinton St Mary compared to 10 years ago?	
Better	14
Worse	26
The same	42
Don't know	83
Comments: Better possibly. More wildlife and more community with different people	
Worse because of traffic and noise; untidy	(1)

Question 66

Number of responses:	158
How would you like Hinton St Mary to develop?	
As a working community	55
As a retirement community	7
As a tourist centre	8
To stay as it is	104
None of these	5
Comments: It should be a balanced community encompassing various aspects of life. It should not endure any large scale change	(1)
A mixture of a working and retirement community	(1)
No more buildings	(1)
Stay as it is except for the addition of street signs. I have had delivery drivers and on one occasion a policeman knocking on my door trying to find the location of various addresses. Why the secrecy? I pity anyone in Hinton taken seriously ill in the middle of the night awaiting the arrival of an ambulance driven by a frustrated driver going round in circles looking for an unmarked house in an unmarked lane when every second counts. I presume someone considers there to be some advantage in this but no one seems to know what it is. Even firemen have been known to get lost in Hinton, so I would suggest that, if your house catches fire, keep it going until they arrive; the smoke and flames will give them their only chance of finding you!	(1)
A mixed community with a few more resources, jobs and better transport communications for young people and the elderly	(1)
Development of Hinton as a retirement community would cause us to leave	(1)
Mixed age groups	(1)
Absolutely not as a tourist centre	(1)
To develop into a more mixed community ie work and housing. It should reflect its surroundings ie its agriculture. The community is at present split very much by social class	(1)
Stay as it was 6 years ago	(1)
PART 3: YOUNG PERSONS SECTION	
(Completed by people 11-15 old)	

Question 67

Number of responses:	10
How old are you?	
11	3
12	3
13	1
14	1
15	2

Question 68

Number of responses:	10
Please say what games and sports you especially like to play:	
Tennis	4
Cricket	2
Swimming	4
Hockey	2
Football	4
Gymnastics	1
Netball	3

Trampolining	1
Rounders	3
Tag Rugby	1
Basketball	2
Hurdles	1

Question 69

Number of responses:	10	10
Please say what hobbies you especially enjoy:		
Riding my bike	4	
Agriculture	1	
Roller blading	1	
Beating for the shoot	1	
Scotering	1	
Fishing	1	
Listening to music	1	
Drawing	2	
Singing	1	
Photography	1	
Playing the drums	1	

Painting	1
Creating music	1
Cooking	1
Reading	1
Sewing	1
Computer	1
TV	1
Game Boy	1

Question 70

Number of responses:	10
Can you do your hobbies and sports in Hinton St Mary?	
Yes, all of them	1
Yes, some of them	7
No, none of them	2

Question 71

Number of responses:	9
Please say what special skills you are learning in your spare time:	
Computers	2
Woodwork	1
Choir	1

Question 72

Number of responses:	9
What sort of social activities do you enjoy?	
Youth Club	1
Discos	1
Cycling	2
Mixing with friends	1
Walking	1
Football	1
Crusaders	1

Question 73

Number of responses:	9
Please say what clubs or societies you belong to:	
Youth Club	3

Gymnastics Club	1
Guides	1
Netball Club	1
Scouts	1
Tag Rugby Club	1
Football Club	1

Question 74

Number of responses:	9
What sort of music do you enjoy?	
Any/all sorts	1
Rave	1
Pop	6
House Club	1
Underground	2
Garage	1
Basement	2
Jazz	1
CD	1

Question 75

Number of responses:	9
Please say what musical instruments you are learning to play:	
Clarinet	1
Drums	1
Piano	1
Guitar (hopefully soon)	1

Question 76

Number of responses:	9
How do you travel to see your friends?	
Walk	4
Bicycle	4
Bus	1
Parents or friends cars	8

Question 77

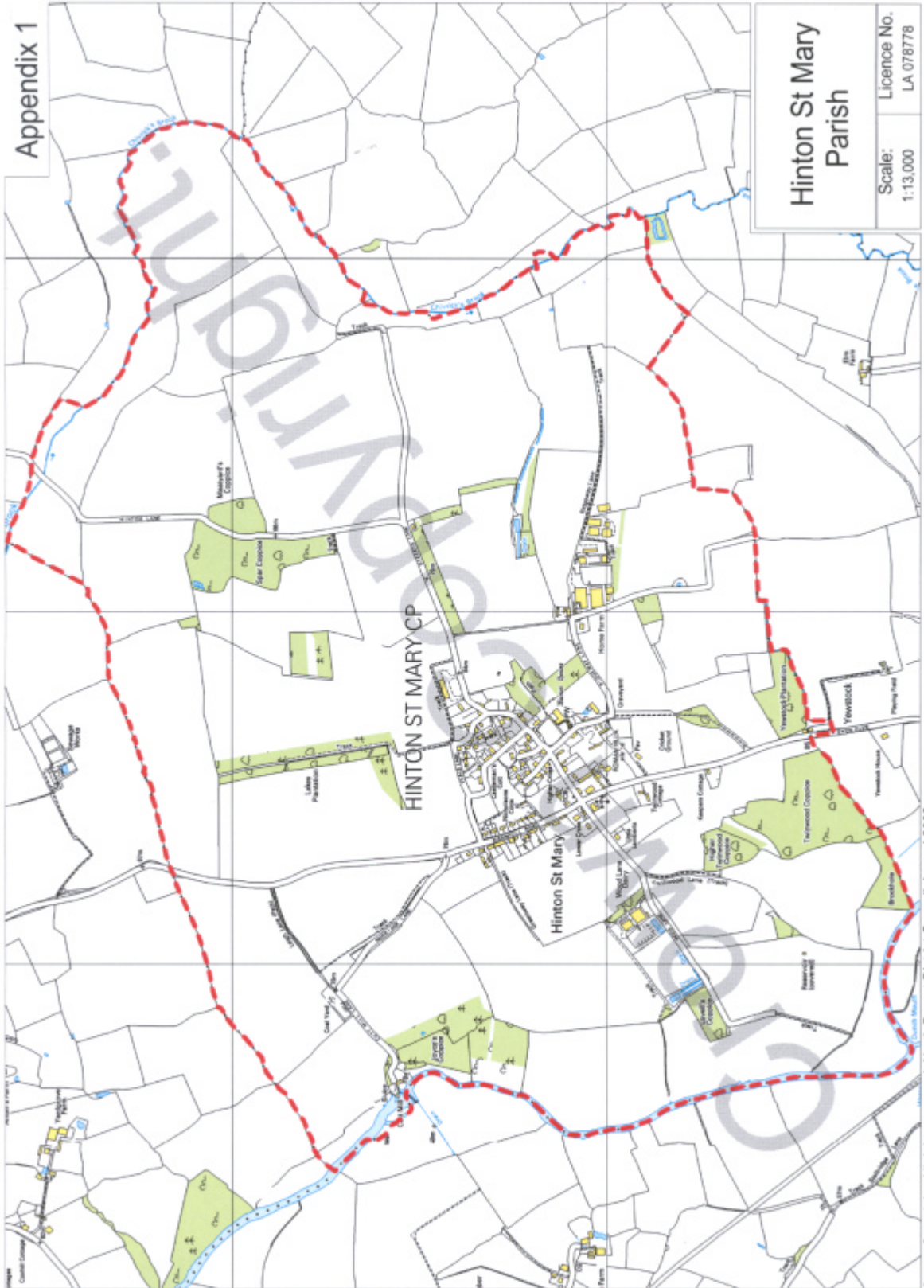
Number of responses:	9
What do you think about life in Hinton St Mary?	
Very quiet	(1)
Fun, enjoyable, excellent and a wonderful place to live and a beautiful village with	(1)

nice scenery	
OK	(1)
Hinton is a nice quiet village but I would like a playground with slides and swings and things	(1)
All right	(1)

Not very good – boring	(1)
Boring !!!	(1)
I like taking our dog and rabbit for walks and going to the pub and riding my bike	(1)
Its nice	(1)



Appendix 1



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