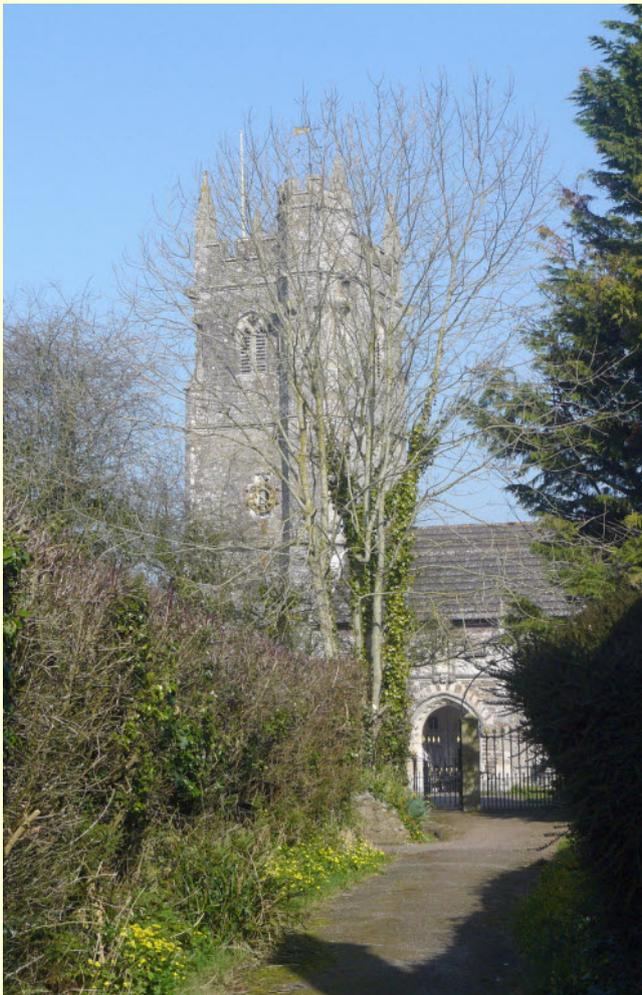


Talaton



parish plan 2009

Index



Introduction	1
Housing & Development	2
Education	4
Local Countryside & Environment	5
Health & Social Services	7
The Church	8
Retail Services	9
Sport & Recreational Facilities	9
Transport & Roads	12
Utilities & Other Services	14
General Comments & Review	16
Policy Summary	17
Planning Boundary	19

Introduction

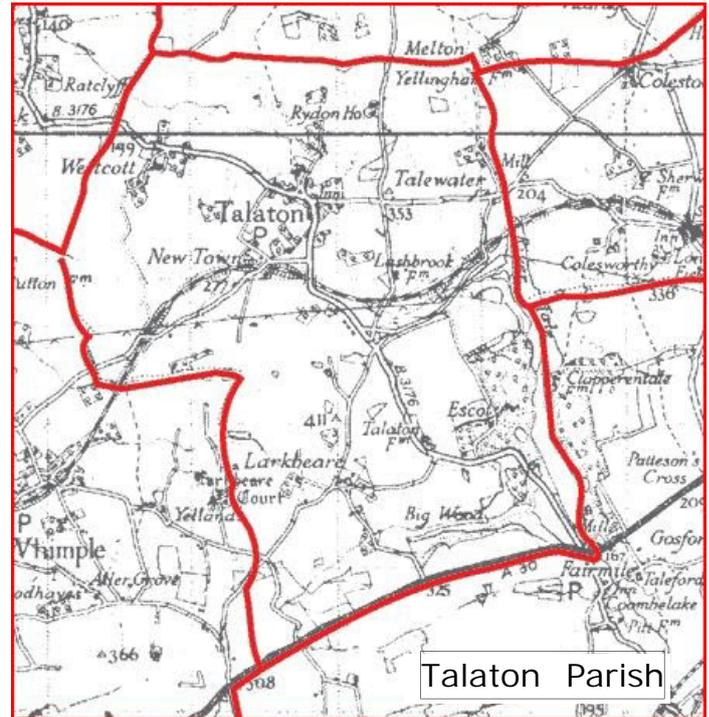
The Village Appraisal and Plan prepared in 2003 provided a focus for activity within Talaton Parish, giving a guideline for the provision of new or improved facilities and services for the village, to cover a period for up to seven years. The accompanying Action Plan identified 20 policies and the required actions needed to achieve them. Subsequently a number of these have been addressed. Since 2003 there have been many changes both within and without the Parish which, in late 2008, led to the Parish Council instituting a review of the 2003 Plan.

A project team was organised, comprising of representatives of the Parish Council, village organisations, clubs and societies, their objective being to update the plan.

The project team

Chris Harwood	PC Chairman
Andrea Down	PC Clerk
Peppi Shaw	Produce Assn.
Emily Thornhill	Parish Hall
Arnie James	Village Day
Victoria Robinson	Youth Club
Charlie Hutchings	Church PCC
Gerry Hawkins	Parish Council
Mike Young	Parish Council
Dawn Newman	Hall/Continuity
Martin Mitchell	Parish Council
Pat Rice	Project leader

Several members had been involved in the original plan and were able to bring the benefit of that experience.



Producing the plan

The project team decided that it should firstly re-visit the original village plan to check its continued relevance and achievements. Secondly, consider other areas that should be addressed for the benefit of all and thirdly, ascertain the current views of parishioners, village societies, and other organisations.

As a result of the re-examination, it was decided to widen the areas of consideration to include two cornerstones of the Parish – The Church and The Talaton Inn. A suitable questionnaire was designed, produced and delivered to all households in the parish for completion.

The results of this exercise provided the evidence for this document and the findings are used to provide policies for the appropriate area. Where existing policies are confirmed by the findings then this is also shown.

Thanks

We wish to thank everyone who completed and returned questionnaires, 137 in all, together with those who have helped us with their time, expertise or resources. Our particular thanks to Neil Oakley of Larkbeare Services for overseeing the final production of this document.

Housing and Development

Village Development Boundary

There has been a small movement in parishioners' views since 2003 regarding housing development.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Extending the boundary for housing development only | 7% |
| (b) Extending the boundary for housing development if it includes land for additional facilities or recreation | 34% |
| (c) Against extending the boundary | 55% |

A map of the current parish development boundary can be found at the end of this document on page 19.

It is proposed to maintain the existing policy subject to the resolution of the housing needs of the Parish and the need for recreational land.

Policy 1. Housing Development

- a) No urbanisation. No extension of the boundary.
- b) Any development should include provision of land for recreational uses.

Action: by Parish Council & EDDC

Affordable Housing

A great deal of work has been carried out by the Parish Council, in conjunction with the District Council, to find a suitable area for a further small development that will include sufficient affordable housing to meet forecast needs. This is still ongoing and the existing policy is enhanced to include recreational land

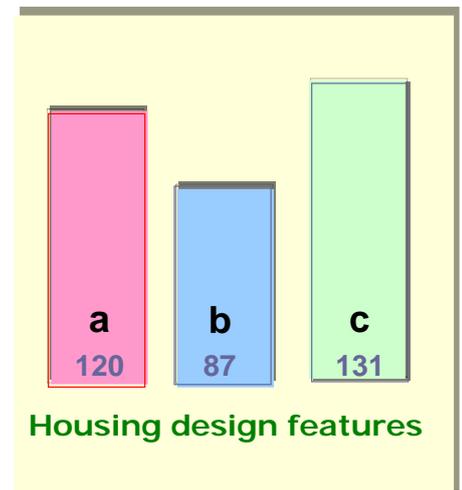
Policy 2. Affordable Housing

- a) Seek the provision of sufficient affordable housing (both shared equity and rented) to meet demand from parishioners.
- b) Any development should include provision of land for recreational uses.

Action: by Parish Council & EDDC

Housing Design Features

There is still an interest in the parish to ensure that the character of housing fits to the village and rural environment. Option (a) Be in keeping with surrounding property was indicated by 88% of respondents, (b) Be of 'cottage style' design where possible was 64%. Almost everyone favoured option (c) - that buildings should not crowd the site or overshadow neighbouring properties in height or position. This confirms the existing policy.



Policy 3. Housing Design Features

New housing to:

- a) Be in keeping with surrounding property.
- b) Be of cottage style design where appropriate.
- c) Not crowd a site or its neighbours.

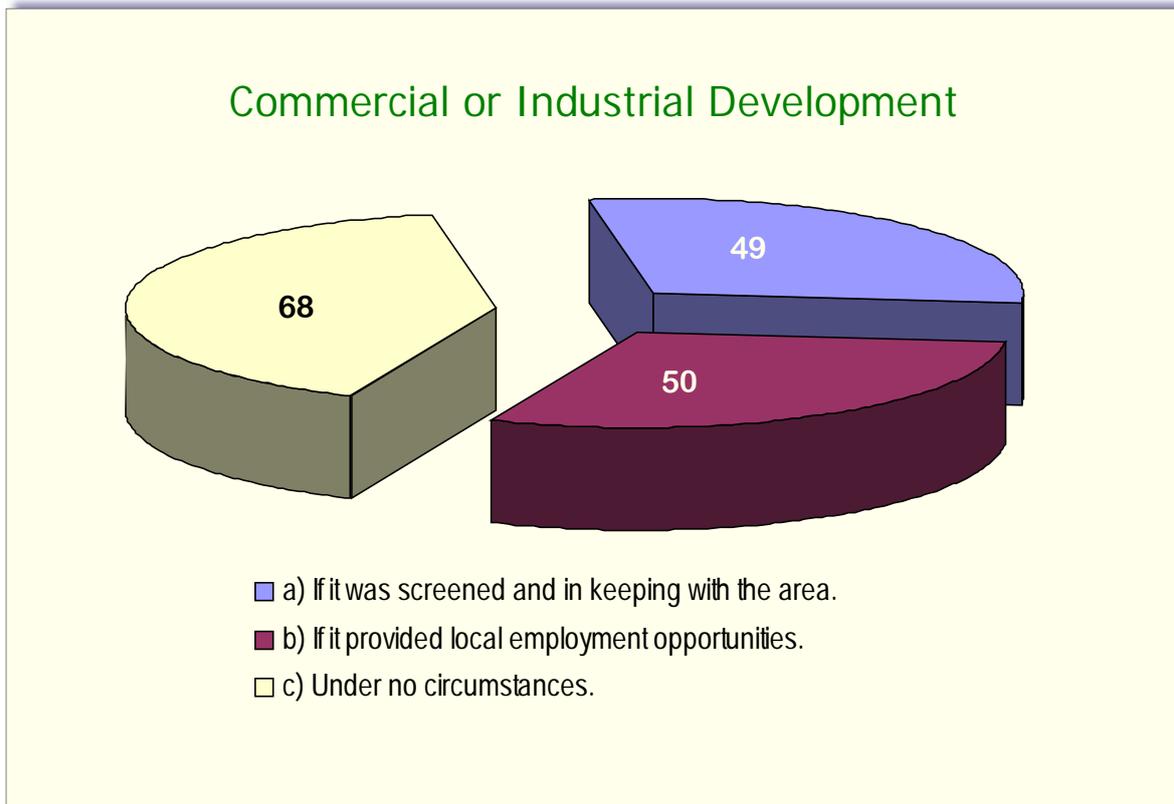
Action: by Parish Council & EDDC

Housing and Development

Commercial or Industrial Development

This is a new question that was needed to determine opinion and help the Parish Council formulate responses to any proposed industrial development.

The results show a division of opinion in that, whilst 50% of respondents did not want *any* such development, 36% were prepared to accept if such development was screened and in keeping with the area, a further 36% would accept development if it provided local employment opportunities.



The proposed policy reflects the concerns and opportunities expressed.

Policy 4 Commercial/Industrial Development

Proposals for Commercial/Industrial development will only be considered if they fulfil *all* of the following criteria:

- a) Are of small size and are in keeping with surroundings.
- b) Are well screened, none polluting in output, by-products, noise or odour.
- c) Provide genuine local employment.

Action: by Parish Council & EDDC

Education

School Facilities

Feniton School received favourable comments regarding its quality and facilities.

35% of respondents wanted to see a pre-school education facility, 7% did not and 53% had no view.

There were 5 comments relating to the school bus service to Feniton. A large bus is used for this service and calls at a number of smaller villages to pick up children – taking a long time to do so. The suggestion is to replace this bus with a mini-bus from Talaton, this being safer on the narrow roads, quicker for young children and reduces the need for parents to ease journey times by using their cars.



Further Education Facility

There were 29 people (21%) who would like to see further education facilities in the village – located at the parish hall. 16 (12%) people said no and 80 (58%) had no view.

Organisation

In response to the question as to whether they would be prepared to help organise the above facilities 20 respondents were prepared to volunteer organise or help.

Policy 5. Education

- a) Support provision of pre-school education and further education facilities.
- b) Investigate methods of reducing pupil journey time to & from Feniton School.

Action: by PC, DCC, Parents & Volunteer organiser/helpers.

Local Countryside & Environment

Open Spaces

Despite 73% of people thinking that the open spaces, greens and verges were generally as they wished to see them there were specific comments made by a third of respondents. The main issues related to the lack of maintenance of verges and drains together with complaints over litter and plastic 'dog bags'. A system of reporting drainage problems was instituted in 2003 and it is proposed to issue a reminder of the process.

A call will be issued for volunteer working parties to keep public places tidy. The existing policies are retained.

Policy 6. Environment - Open Spaces

- a) That Open spaces in the Parish be well maintained, clear of rubbish and be of a generally attractive and welcoming appearance.
- b) Verges and Ditches to be well maintained avoiding untidiness, safety problems and flooding.

Action: by PC, EDDC, DCC, Parishioners.



Footpaths & Public Rights of Way

The responses show that most people (57%) feel that the Parish footpaths are generally in good order. There were 10% of the replies that complained of the lack of route markings and a further 9% complaining of condition – including being overgrown or in a poor state. The existing policy covers these issues and is retained

Policy 7. Environment - Footpaths

To ensure that Footpaths in the Parish are well marked and passable with ease, having regard to normal agricultural operations and the effects of inclement weather.

Action: by PC, EDDC, and DCC.

Local Countryside & Environment

Recycling

This subject provoked a significant reaction to the limited existing kerbside collection. A majority of replies want to see the collection of more materials than the existing glass, paper, clothing and batteries.

Plastic and cardboard are the materials most sought after for collection with a few also seeking collection of food waste.

It is noted East Devon District Council has recently widened provision of an extended recycling service as far as the Ottery Parishes.



The existing policy is amended accordingly.

Policy 8. Environment - Recycling

To seek an extension of the range of materials collected by the existing kerbside recycling service - for the whole Parish.

Action: by Parish Council and EDDC.

Allotments and Garden Sharing

There has been a slight increase in the number of people who have expressed interest in an allotment to 26. It is the Parish Council policy to attempt to meet this demand when suitable land becomes available. In the meantime interest has been shown in entering into a garden share scheme. There were 10 people who were prepared to share their garden and 10 who were prepared to grow & share in someone else's garden!

It is proposed to amend the existing policy to include providing a framework for garden sharing.

Policy 9. Environment - Allotments & Garden Sharing

Allotments – To seek provision of allotments for all parishioners who require one.

Garden Sharing – To set up a register and model rules to facilitate and match committed growers with local garden owners who want to see their gardens being used more productively.

Action: by Parish Council, Parishioners and EDDC.

Health & Social Services

General

88% of people responding to the questionnaire thought that local medical services were either excellent or good, 74% had a similar view of the hospital services. There was much less experience of Social Services which showed that two thirds (66%) of respondents had no view of the service.

Dental Services

Whilst there was no direct criticism of paid (private) dental services in the area there was much dissatisfaction with the lack of a local NHS dentistry service. 60 people (44%) thought the service only adequate or poor and there were 22 comments regarding the need for such a service.

Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
9%	24%	17%	27%

What do you think of the Dental Services?

In view of these results there is a need for a new policy.

Policy 10. Health - Dental Services

To seek easy access for all parishioners to a local NHS Dentistry service.

Action: by Parish Council, Ottery Locality Health Team and Devon Primary Care Trust

Services for the Elderly

This was another area where there were less people with direct experience of these services – 66% of replies indicated they had no view. Those that had a view were divided in that 14% thought the service excellent or good whilst 18% thought it only adequate or poor. There were 5 people who suggested setting up a register of volunteers to help the elderly.

The current policy sought to make sure that regular information on services was made available via brochures in The Village Shop and contact numbers in the Talaton Calendar. It is proposed to maintain this policy with one addition.

Policy 11. Services for the Elderly

- All elderly people in the Parish should be able to easily contact an appropriate provider and receive any health and social services required.
- Support the creation of a register of Volunteer Helpers.

Action: by Parish Council, Editor of Talaton Calendar and the Village Shop.

The Church

Maintenance

A significant number of respondents thought that the fabric of the church (92%), the churchyard (94%) and the car park (89%) were maintained to an excellent or good standard.

There were 31 people who indicated that they would be prepared to help maintain the grass in the churchyard.

The Bells

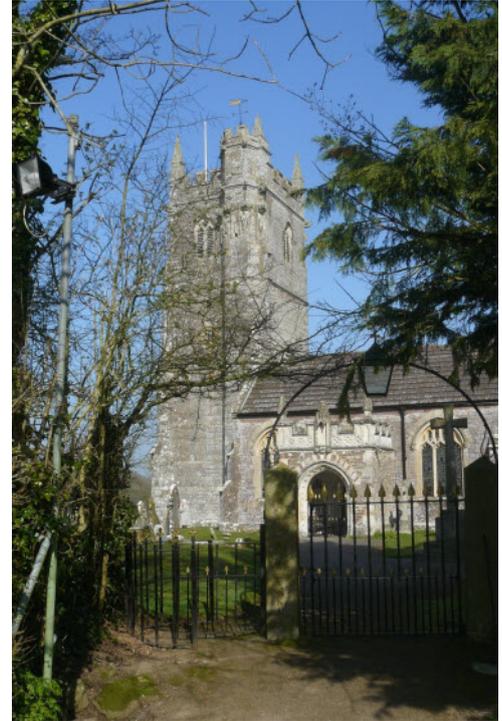
There were 102 (74%) replies who would like to hear the bells rung every Sunday and 14 people (10%) said that they wouldn't.

10 people expressed an interest in joining the bell ringing team.

Church Services

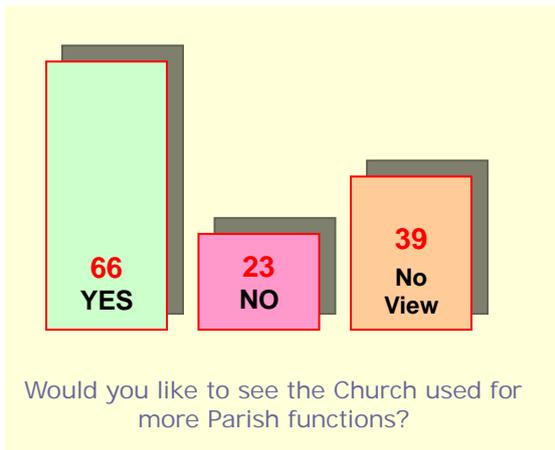
25% of people replying to the question regarding the holding of an occasional service in the Parish Hall showed positive interest as against 67% who were not in agreement.

A similar split was evident in respect of alternative times of Services. There were 19% who suggested different times and 64% who wished to retain the existing times.



Church Usage

The question which sought seeking views on additional use of the Church for other appropriate functions provided a positive response with 48% in favour and 17% against.



There were many suggestions as to what events would be suitable and enjoyed by those people replying.

The activities most favoured were exhibitions (21%), musical and choral events (9%). Other supported ideas were talks, a library, drop-in centre and a meeting space.

Retail Services

The Village Shop

There was an almost unanimous view (99%) in the questionnaire responses agreeing that the presence of both the Village Shop and the Post Office were either vital or important.

Newspapers were the additional product that was most requested by 19 (14%) of respondents.

The existing policy relating to the shop was delivered when the shop was relocated in February, 2006.



Other Retail Services

There were 5 people (4%) who would like to see a Coffee Shop or Tearoom in the area, other suggestions were, a Bakery, Hairdresser and a Fish & Chip van.

Sport & Recreational Facilities

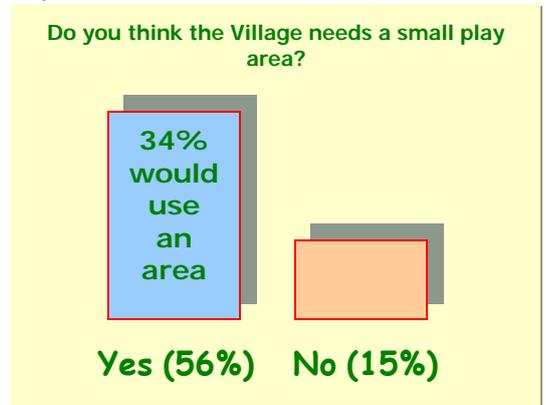
Play Area

The questionnaire showed that over half of the respondents, 55%, were in favour of a small playground, 15% however were not in favour.

Recreational Area

The figures for some form of recreational area were slightly lower. 43% of respondents were in favour and 23% against. The use to which such an area would be put were:

- Sports Related, 26%.
- Wildlife & Relaxation, 12%.
- General Village use, 10% (to include Village Day).



Given the above figures the existing policies have been modified as shown below.

Support & Maintenance

There were 36 people who indicated that they would help maintain a play and/or recreational area.

Policy 12. Sport & Recreation

That site identification, establishment and maintenance of play and recreational areas will continue.

Action: by Parish Council, Parishioners.

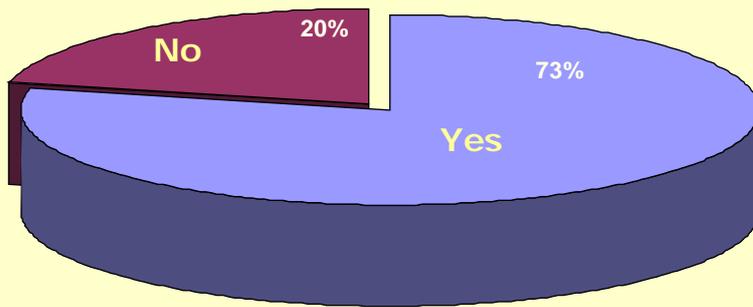
Sport & Recreational Facilities

The Parish Hall

99% of respondents rated the Parish Hall either vital or important to the village. Given the chance to make general comments about the hall 12 (9%) praised the improvements and effort put in to achieve them. Other comments pointed to the need for improved parking, lighting and decoration (12%). There were requests for an increase in 'user friendliness' (4%).



Are you in favour of an extension to the Hall?



Hall Extension

There were 100 people (73%) who responded in favour of an extension to the Parish Hall and 28 (20%) against.

The comments in support cited the need for a community room, separate space for the youth club and storage as reasons for the requirement. Just 2% of replies

thought that a new hall would be the best answer.

Funding for Extension

Support for the additional fundraising required to build the extension showed that 69% would be supportive and that 20% would not. There were a number of suggestions for achieving the required funds. The most popular (9%) were for social events, which ranged from curry evenings to barn dances and from Bingo to coffee mornings. The second most popular were sponsorship ideas such as 'buy a brick' schemes or a promise auction. Sales related suggestions were also popular citing everything from jumble sales to raffles.

The existing policy was directed towards hall refurbishment – something which the Parish Hall Committee has largely achieved. The policy is therefore updated to reflect current ambitions.

Policy 13. Parish Hall

To fund and secure an extended, attractive and up to date Hall that can be regularly used for an increased range of activities and lettings both within and outside the Parish.

Action: by Parish Hall Committee, Parishioners.

Sport & Recreational Facilities

The Village Pub

The questionnaire shows that 96% of respondents think that the Talaton Inn is either vital or important to the community.



It also reveals that 93% of those responding do use the pub either on a regular or occasional basis.

A question was also asked of those not using the pub, if they had considered it a place to go for soft drinks, to socialise and meet friends. 16% said that they had not.

Facilities & Suggestions

There were a number of commendations and suggestions in the replies. The main request was for outside 'beer garden' seating – there was recognition that the lack of garden was not the fault of the current owners, and that the car park was the only area left. Since the questionnaire was issued the owners have actually screened part of the car park and installed outside seating.

There were suggestions that more should be made of the use of local fresh produce – advertising use of such produce could be a good sales point.

The owners were also praised for providing lunches for care home groups, and delivering to them low cost, tasty, meals.

Opening hours

There were 5% of replies that suggested an earlier evening opening time would benefit families – enabling them to have a meal out together, on returning home from work, and before their children's bedtime.

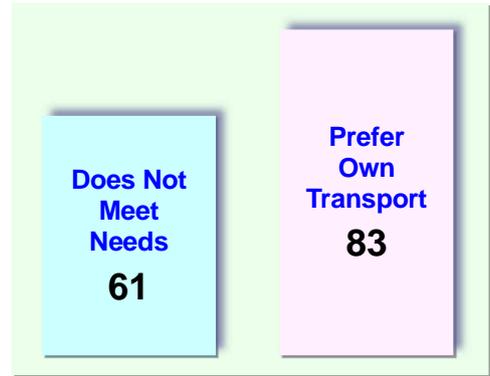
Transport & Roads

Bus Services

There were 21% of respondents who indicated that they used the bus services to and from the village. Of these 9% thought the service adequate but 12% disagreed.

The graphic to the right shows the broad reasons why people say that they rarely or never use the bus services.

The further question as to *why* the service did not meet their needs produced the following breakdown:



Unsuitable destinations, or, service unavailable when needed	34%
No Station link or connections with trains	6%
Timetable - No Afternoon Services	2%
Journey times - Takes too long or need to commute	5%
Occupational - Work outside area or need to carry equipment	3%

The current policy on bus services is still relevant and is retained.

Policy 14. Bus Services

To seek a public transport service, to and from the village, which meets the needs of the community

Action: by Parish Council.

Roads & their Maintenance

The question regarding the performance and maintenance of the Parish roads generated a strong response as may be seen from the table below showing views on specific areas of road maintenance

Roads & Surrounds	Good	Adequate	Poor
(i) The road surfaces	4%	31%	63%
(ii) Ditches	4%	37%	55%
(iii) Drains	3%	30%	61%
(iv) Field entrances	4%	55%	33%
(v) Flood prevention	4%	34%	52%
(vi) Gritting	17%	42%	34%

Transport & Roads

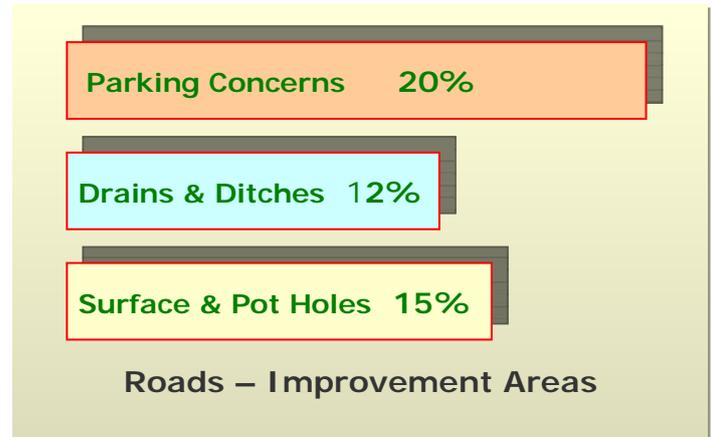
The supporting question asking for views on improvements to the road network produced a number of comments that fell into the areas shown in the adjacent graphic.

Specific areas where parking was thought to need improving were:

- ❑ The area in front of the elderly persons' bungalows.
- ❑ Outside the Parish hall.
- ❑ The road outside the Village Shop, and Hillside.

Drains and ditches were felt to be in need of more frequent cleaning and pot holes needed rapid and better quality repairs.

The existing policy is still relevant and is retained and updated.



Policy 15. Roads - Network

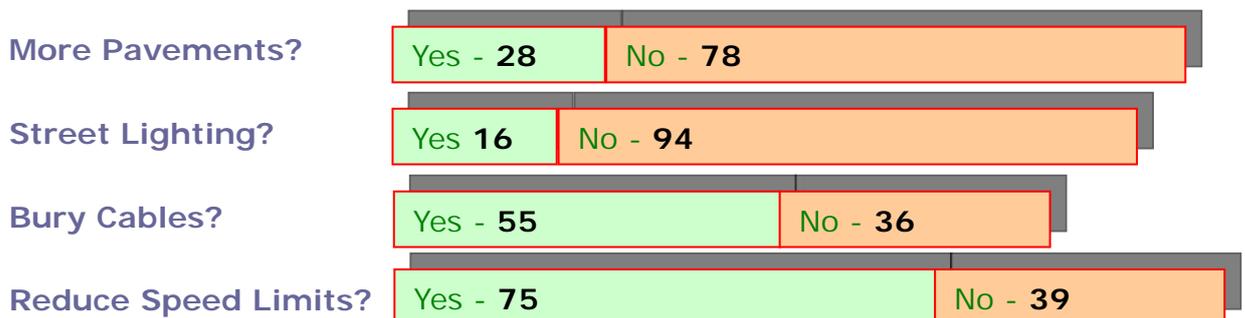
To secure a road network in and around the Parish that is well maintained and copes with adverse weather conditions.

- a) Flooding. Identify sites, investigate cause and request action.
- b) Gritting. Identify problem locations and request action.
- c) Publicise pot hole reporting line - 01392 682100.
- e) On road parking. Identify problem locations and potential solutions.

Action: by Parish Council. DCC , EDDC & landowners

Speed Limits, Pavements, Lighting & Cables

The question on these areas produced quite a mixed reaction - the basic figures are shown below:



There is strong feeling (69%) against street lighting with a minority in favour of discreet lighting outside the Parish Hall. 40% of replies favoured putting the overhead cables underground, with a recognition that this would not be easy to achieve.

Whilst 57% of replies were against more pavements, there were 20% in favour of a single pavement between the Talaton Inn and the Parish Hall – citing the dangers to both mothers with children and the elderly.

Transport & Roads

The issue of reducing speed limits produced 55% in favour of reducing vehicle speeds both through the village and its outskirts. 65 written responses drew attention to the dangers arising from the through traffic, including some tractors, driving at unsafe speeds on our village roads.

“Traffic speed is a danger to dog walkers, mothers with children - everyone!”

The existing policy has been updated in line with parishioners’ views.

Policy 16. Roads - Traffic

To secure evidence of actual traffic speeds on the main village roads and seek traffic calming and/or Speed Restrictions accordingly.

Action: by Parish Council. DCC , EDDC & Police.

Utility & Other Services

The ratings given to the various services are shown below and these together with the individual comments provide a good snapshot of parishioners’ views.

Service	Good	Adequate	Poor
(a) Telephone systems	34%	53%	7%
(b) Broadband service/s	10%	28%	36%
(c) Water	41%	49%	8%
(d) Sewage disposal	34%	44%	6%
(e) Electricity	42%	53%	2%
(f) Refuse collection	51%	45%	9%
(g) Recycling collection	26%	36%	35%
(h) Postal services	62%	33%	2%
(i) Mobile library	21%	23%	0%
(j) The work of the Parish Council	54%	31%	3%
(k) Emergency services	54%	21%	1%
(l) Routine Police patrols	5%	26%	31%
(m) Litter bins	1%	42%	34%
(n) Dog bins	1%	23%	39%
(o) Talaton Village website	26%	22%	0%

Utility & Other Services

Comments

Broadband – 9 persons supported their low marking with comments – in particular those working from home or self employed.

Recycling – 15 people supported their marking with requests for collections of a wider range of material, a bin for clothes (Note – there is such a bin in the Talaton Inn car park) and for larger containers.

Police patrols – 6 people commented that they have never seen either a policeman or patrol in the area.

Litter bins – There were 6 requests for more strategically placed litter bins, including near the Village Shop.

Dog bins – There was quite a strong feeling amongst the comments that there is a need for more dog bins. Apart from the adjacent highlighted comment it was observed that greater provision could prevent bags being left in hedgerows.

“More dog bins please - say no to poo!”

The existing policy has been amended to reflect the views of parishioners.

Policy 17. Utilities & Other Services

- a) To communicate the parish views to the appropriate service providers.
- b) To seek improvements in the poorly marked services.
- c) To publicise the results of these efforts.

Action: by Parish Council. All Service Providers,

General Comments & Review

The last three questions sought comments on general aspirations for the parish and village. The answers showed a very strong appreciation of its unique character together with an equally strong desire to maintain that special ambience.

Essential to Preserve

There were 119 comments in this section alone. 46% of individual comments wanted to preserve the Parish 'cornerstones' – comprising the Pub, Shop, Church and Parish Hall. Another 23% commented on preserving the ambience, the rural character, the community spirit and the people!

"Keep this a living village - every day, every week and all year!"

Capable of Improvement

The 56 comments were spread over all of the areas covered by this parish plan document. The subjects receiving most proposals for improvement were the Parish Hall, Road conditions and a play area.

General Views

There were just a few comments in this category – most of them looking to preserve community activity and spirit.

Commendations

There were several respondents who went out of their way to pay tribute to all of those people who get involved in Parish activities.

"Thanks to everyone who works hard to make Talaton such an exceptional place to live!"

Review

Around 40% of parishioners completed the questionnaire, answering (potentially) 98 questions each and providing around 1200 written observations.

These provided a valuable snapshot of opinion and a basis for this revised Parish Plan.

Aims

The aim of the plan is for it to be used to shape the future of Talaton by being the reference point for:

- Householders & Residents
- Local businesses and organisations.
- Planners, developers and builders.
- Public authorities and utility providers.
- Architects and designers.

Future Plans

It is recommended that this plan be updated in 6 years time – 2015.

Photo Credits – Chris Harwood, Pat Rice.

Policy Summary

No.	Area	Policy	Action by
1.	Housing Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No urbanisation. No extension of the boundary. b) Any development should include provision of land for recreational uses. 	Parish Council & EDDC
2	Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seek the provision of sufficient affordable housing (both shared equity and rented) to meet demand from parishioners. b) Any development should include provision of land for recreational uses. 	Parish Council & EDDC
3	Housing Design Features	<p>New housing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Be in keeping with surrounding property b) Be of cottage style design where appropriate c) Not crowd a site or its neighbours. 	Parish Council & EDDC
4	Commercial and/or Industrial Development	<p>Proposals for Commercial/Industrial development will only be considered if they fulfil <i>all</i> of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Are of small size and are in keeping with surroundings. b) Are well screened, non polluting in output, by-products, noise or odour. c) Provide genuine local employment. 	Parish Council & EDDC
5	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Support provision of pre-school education and further education facilities. b) Investigate methods of reducing pupil journey time to & from Feniton School. 	PC, DCC, Parents & Volunteers, organiser/helpers.
6	Environment - Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That Open spaces in the Parish be well maintained, clear of rubbish and be of a generally attractive and welcoming appearance. b) Verges and Ditches to be well maintained avoiding untidiness, safety problems and flooding. 	PC, EDDC, DCC, Parishioners.
7	Environment - Footpaths	To ensure that Footpaths in the Parish are well marked and passable with ease, having regard to normal agricultural operations and the effects of inclement weather.	PC, EDDC, and DCC.
8	Environment - Recycling	To seek an extension of the range of materials collected by the existing kerbside recycling service - for the whole Parish.	Parish Council and EDDC.
9	Environment - Allotments & Garden Sharing	<p>Allotments – To seek provision of allotments for all parishioners who require one.</p> <p>Garden Sharing – To set up a register and model rules to facilitate and match committed growers with local garden owners who want to see their gardens being used more productively.</p>	Parish Council, Parishioners and EDDC.

Policy Summary

10 Health - Dental Services	To seek easy access for all parishioners to a local NHS Dentistry service.	Parish Council, Ottery Locality Health Team and Devon Primary Care Trust
11 Services for the Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All elderly people in the Parish should be able to easily contact an appropriate provider and receive any health and social services required. b) Support the creation of a register of Volunteer Helpers. 	Parish Council, Editor of Talaton Calendar and the Village Shop.
12 Sport & Recreation	That site identification, establishment and maintenance of play and recreational areas will continue.	Parish Council, Parishioners.
13 Parish Hall	To fund and secure an extended, attractive and up to date Hall that can be regularly used for an increased range of activities and lettings both within and outside the Parish.	Parish Hall Committee, Parishioners.
14 Bus Services	To seek a public transport service, to and from the village, which meets the needs of the community	Parish Council.
15 Roads - Network	<p>To secure a road network in and around the Parish that is well maintained and copes with adverse weather conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Flooding. Identify sites, investigate cause and request action. b) Gritting. Identify problem locations and request action. c) Publicise Pot hole reporting line - 01392 682100. e) On road Parking. Identify problem locations and potential solutions. 	Parish Council. DCC & landowners
16 Roads - Traffic	To secure evidence of actual traffic speeds on the main village roads and seek traffic calming and/or Speed Restrictions accordingly.	Parish Council. DCC & Police.
17 Utilities & Other Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To communicate the parish views to the appropriate service providers. b) To seek improvements in the poorly marked services. c) To publicise the results of these efforts. 	Parish Council. All Service Providers,

Planning Boundary

