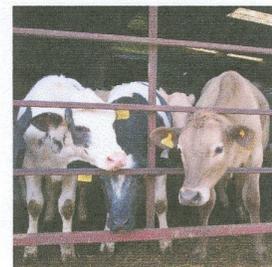
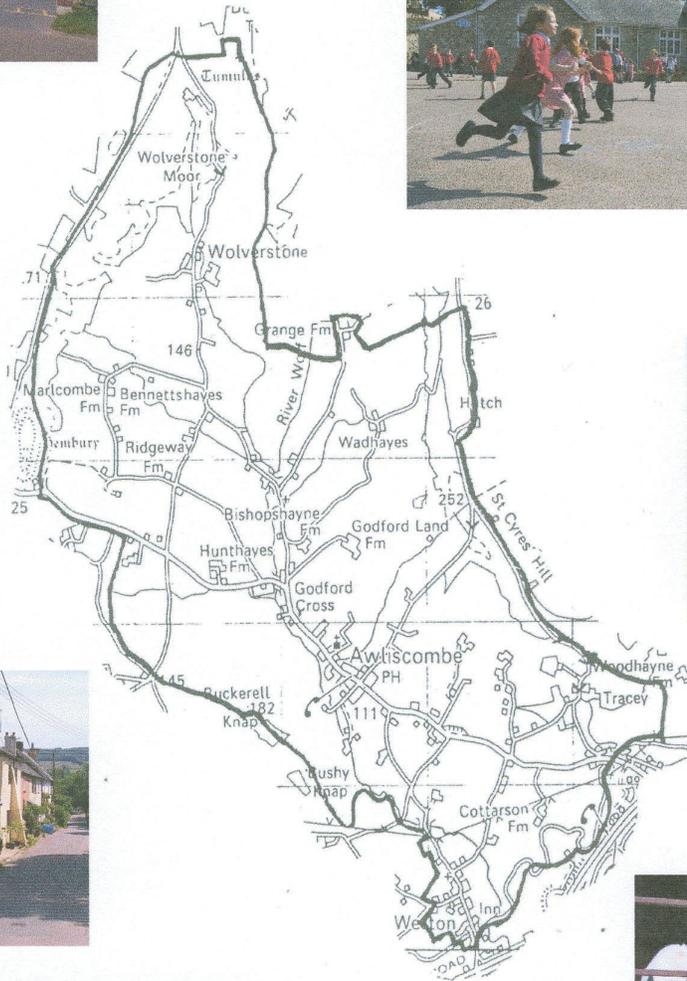
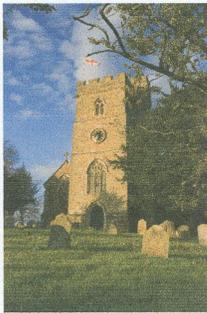
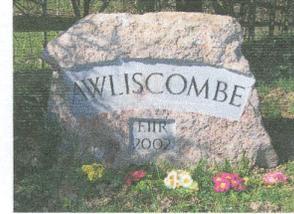


Awliscombe

Parish Plan



June 2006

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Organisation	Person to Contact	Telephone No.
Young Farmers	Julie Tucker	01404 861680
Short Mat Bowls	Brain Holland	01404 45487
Friday Club	Peter & Pauline Edwards	01404 43729
Village Ceilidh	Sue Snell	01404 841264
Village Fete	Sue Snell	01404 841264
Harvest Supper & Auction	Sue Snell	01404 841264
Over Sixties	Rosemary Sprigg	01404 43814
W.I	Meg Pipe	01404 850855
Awliscombe Amblers	Brain Marshall	01404 41061
Big Night In	David Chippington	01404 43480
Garden Club	Sally Lawrence	01404 42825
Ex Servicemens	Roger Sprigg	01404 43814
Young Wives	Sally Lawrence	01404 42825
Awliscombe Football Club	Duncan Bryant	01404 42771
Honiton Arts Society	Brenda Jebson	01395 516758
Little Treasurers	Jo Burraston	01404 891749
Pilates & Relaxation	Kay Holdsworth	01404 871581

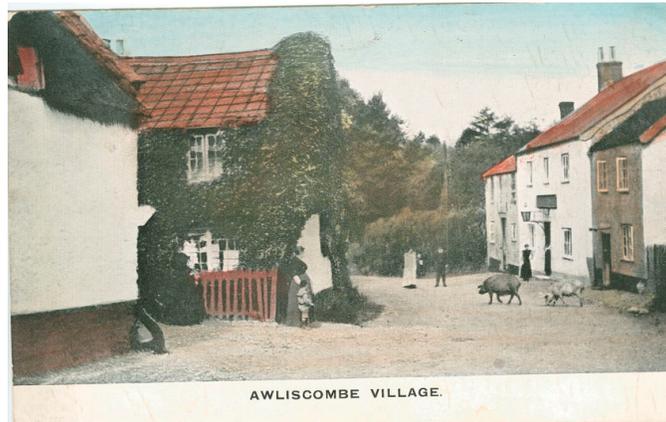
Parish Hall Bookings Liz Gillingham 01404 43551

Parish Hall Chairman Bernie Little 01404 47305

Awliscombe Parish Council Members:

Ray Willmington Chairman
William Furnival Vice Chairman
Don Hughes
Steve Jackson
Richard Lawrence
Maureen Perry
David Venn

Welcome



This is your Parish Plan, instigated by our Parish Council and developed with considerable assistance from many of you.

The Parish Plan was set up to generate interest within our community to maintain and promote our quality of life and expectations for the foreseeable future.

A public meeting was organised by the Parish Council on 17th May 2004 to ascertain the level of interest within the Parish for such a venture. The consensus of opinion at the well attended meeting was that a Parish Plan would have benefits for the community at large and it was agreed to set up a Steering Group.

The considerable amount of time and effort required to produce the plan was on a voluntary basis, but there were obviously costs involved with printing and professional services. The Government funding to encourage such plans was unfortunately exhausted at this time so alternative funding was vigorously pursued. Success was eventually gained with a grant from the Lottery run "Awards for All" scheme together with donations from Devon County Council, the Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership, and Honiton's Market & Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTi).

With the help from the Community Council of Devon an open day exhibition was staged at our Parish Hall on the 20th November 2004, where all the visiting parishioners were encouraged to record their views and aspirations on various issues relevant to Parish life.

This was another successful show of public support for the Plan and over the following months a questionnaire was developed, based on the information gained from that open day. Four newsletters were produced to keep parishioners informed of progress.

We engaged the services of the Corporate Consultation department of the Devon County Council for their years of experience in analysis of appraisals and questionnaires. The content of the draft questionnaire was discussed by the Parish Council and, when approved, was printed out by Devon County Council, before being distributed by our volunteers to all 203 properties within the Parish. 171 or 84% of the total questionnaires were returned to our collectors giving responses from 367 individuals over the age of 11.

The Consultation Service produced a report on the responses to the questionnaires and our Steering Group extracted all the written text comments.

The combination of survey results and written text comments form the basis of this plan and allowed conclusions to be drawn on which the Parish Council based the Action Plan.

It is intended that the Parish Council continue to monitor and maintain the Action Plan, enlisting the assistance of all necessary providers, partners or voluntary organisations to achieve the desired results. The Action Plan will therefore be amended over time, ticking off achievements and adding new targets as they arise. A copy of this Plan will also be held by East Devon District Council; and can be referred to if any of the issues are raised.

The Parish Council will have an Open Day to enable parishioners to discuss the Parish Plan with interested parties.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge all the volunteer helpers who distributed the newsletters and questionnaires, helped at the Open Day, typed up letters and minutes. Additionally, many thanks to Valerie Cann for the short history of Awliscombe., The Corporate Consultation Services of Devon County Council, The Community Council of Devon, Awliscombe Parish Council

The Steering Group:

Jenny Barry
Gill Goodes
Carole Lock
Steve Jackson
Don Hughes

1 Parish profile

1.1 *A brief history of Awliscombe Parish*



People have been living and working in what is now the Parish of Awliscombe for some 5000 years. First to occupy Hembury Fort were Neolithic people who farmed. The Celtic Iron Age farmers fortified Hembury from about 400BC, constructing the great ditches we can see today, and mining the iron ore on the Blackdowns. They began the clearance of trees from the valleys to provide

more land for farming; the Romans were here too, also mining the iron ore. The Saxons began a system of local government, which lasted until the formation of County, Rural District and Parish Councils towards the end of the 19th Century. By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 the village pattern had begun to develop into the form we know today. There were five small manors – Goda’s Ford, Wolstancota, Aulescombe, Ivedon and Warin’s Tun. This probably explains why we have settlements at Godford Cross, Wolverstone, and the centre of the village with the church, and Weston (or Werringstone). William de Ivedon divided the manor of Ivedon in about 1200 between his three daughters, one of whom was married to William de Tracey. He gave his name to that portion of the estate. The church of St. Michael and All Angels was built in the 14th century, replacing an earlier Norman one, with major additions in the 16th century by Thomas Chard, the last Abbot of Forde Abbey, who was born at Tracey.

During the 18th century most people were still employed in agriculture and lived in mainly cob and thatched cottages, many built in the 16th century. Following the Napoleonic wars, decline in farming forced many from the land into the towns and cities. Those who remained were employed as servants at the big houses or worked on the land. There were two mills (Godford and Lower Mill), blacksmiths, carpenters and wheelwrights shops, two or three public houses or cider houses, a shoemaker and a tailor. By the middle of the 19th century the population reached 600, with large families crammed into small cottages. The Neumann family who came to Tracey at about that time built several modern stone cottages for workers on their estate. The school was founded in 1819; the present building dates from 1875, when it was built by public subscription and Government money. The old Tithe Barn, which stood on what is now the playground, was demolished, together with the poor house, by then being used as the school, which was opposite the church gate. The stone was used in the new building. The Parish Hall was built as a ‘Reading Room’ in 1902 after fund raising activities and by subscription.



By the beginning of the 20th century the old cob cottages were in decay and neglect during the First World War led to further decline. In 1926 the Minister of Health, Neville Chamberlain, came to Devon and was shocked by the state of rural housing. As a result the Government passed The Housing (rural Workers) Act in 1926 and grants were made available to renovate cottages. In Awliscombe cottages on Church

Hill, in Weston, and some others were modernised. Council houses were built at Nap View and Sunnyside around 1930. The population of the village fell to around the same as that in 1800 (426). Many old cob buildings, including the thatched 16th century vicarage, which today would be considered desirable dwellings, have disappeared. Modern developments at Chinston Close, Marles Close and Nap View, and a few other houses and bungalows have been built during the past 40 years and the population is now rising again.

1.2 Awliscombe today

The Parish comprises of two rural villages, Awliscombe and Weston plus small clusters and scattered individual dwellings. The parish straddles the A373 with the southern border of Weston marked by the River Otter. The town of Honiton, which is 2 miles from the centre of Awliscombe contains all the services of a busy market town, as well as a railway station on the London (Waterloo) to Exeter line.

The Parish is situated in picturesque undulating countryside with a large section also included within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The river Wolf drains the Northern area and runs south to join the River Otter running along the southern boundary.

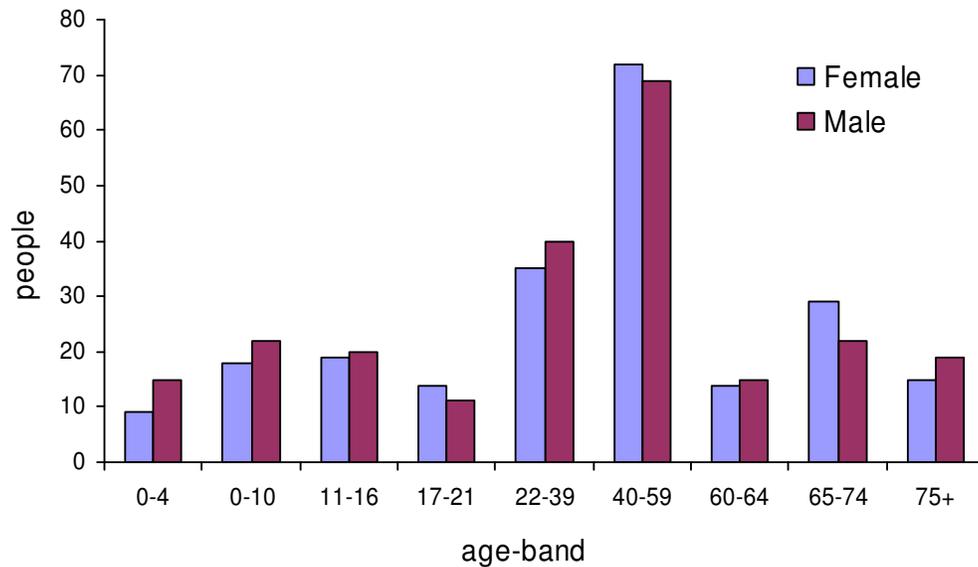
We have a lovely church, a public house in Awliscombe and one in Weston, a primary school and Parish Hall. There are many community run organisations covering many interests and entertainments including the annual summer fete.

The Parish has its own council and falls within the ward of Tale Vale in the District Council of East Devon. Our parliamentary constituency is Tiverton and Honiton and we are part of the South West European Parliamentary Region.

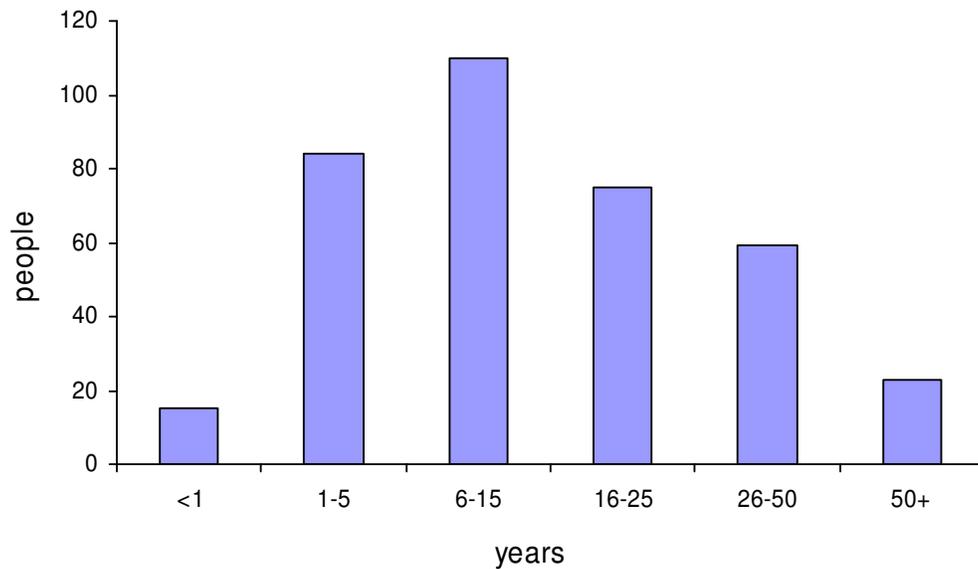
There are 203 residences with an electoral role of 402, the following charts are based on information extracted from the questionnaire results and show the age spread and the numbers of years in residence.

The survey showed that, of those responding, in Awliscombe 48 families lived within the village centre and 98 families in outlying areas. In Weston 26 families were within the village centre with 3 families away from the centre.

Age of household members in responding households



Years resident in Parish

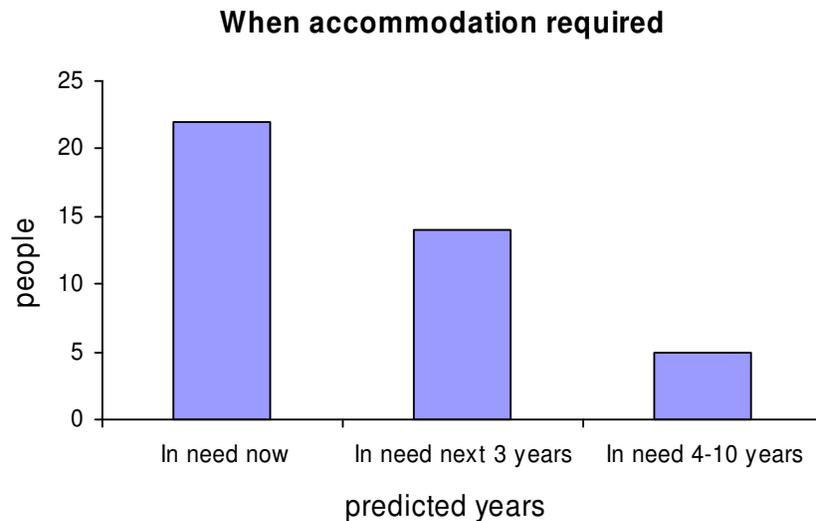


2 The Survey

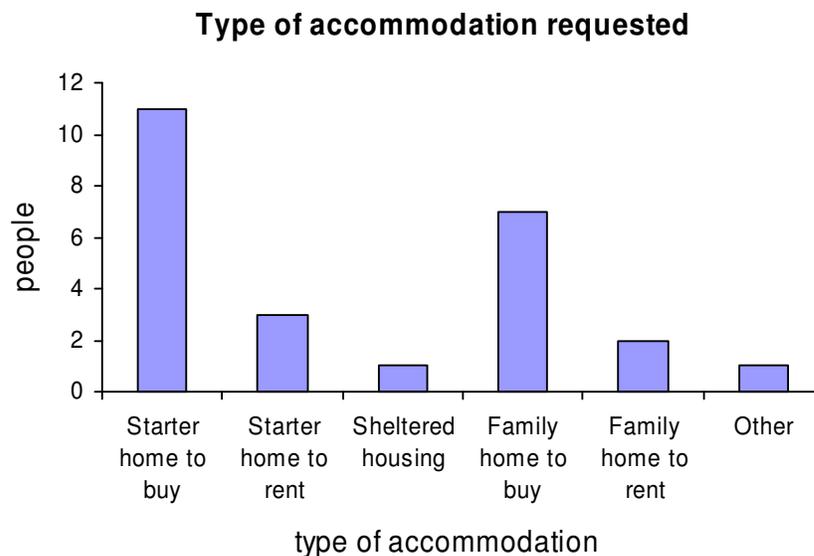
2.1 *Housing and business development*

2.1.1 Housing (accommodation required)

The responses received suggest that there is a need for some further accommodation in the local area. The present, foreseeable and possible demand identified is:



The responses also show that in the last 5 years 23 members of existing households have moved away from the Parish through lack of suitable housing.



In response to the question “Do you feel there is a need for further housing in the Parish”, 153 said YES and 175 said NO. However, if there were to be further housing, then the acceptable limits over the next 10 years were identified as:

Type	Responses
Infill	142
Up to 6 Dwellings	69
Over 6 Dwellings	74
No Opinion	30

Within these limits, the type of accommodation preferred was:

Type	Responses
Starter to buy	129
Starter to rent	72
Family Home to buy	75
Family Home to rent	39
Sheltered Housing	17
Residential Home	10
Others	10
No Opinion	3

82 written responses with 15 main concerns qualified the 175 responses against a need for further development. The most common of these concerns were:

- Loss of the present character of the Parish.
- Loss of a Parish identity and risk of becoming a suburb of Honiton.
- Loss of a green field agricultural atmosphere in preference to an increased domestic presence.

All the sentiments expressed were consistent with the responses to the question of “important aspects of Parish life”.

Conclusion: It will be the Parish Council’s aim to encourage young families to stay within the Parish to ensure its continual evolution. Any opportunity would be encouraged to have a small increase in the housing stock that would be affordable and offered as starter homes to young families. This will only be done mindful of the concerns raised by other members of our community.

If there is willingness and support in the community a Village Design Statement will follow this Parish Plan that will include and expand upon concerns already raised on harmonization of any new or extended buildings.

2.2 Business

There already exists within the Parish a diverse range of entrepreneurial enterprises.

Although there was a resounding NO to any large business or retail start up, it would appear that small craft shops should be encouraged in an effort to maintain some further diverse employment within the area.

Conclusion: Anyone in the Parish contemplating such a move should be encouraged to contact the Parish Council who will be aware of the contact points of much professional and financial assistance available on such matters.

2.3 Transport & highways

Transport & Highways was covered in 12 questions (23%) out of the total of 53 questions.

This section is reviewed under three sub-headings:

- Parking & Access
- Use of public/community transport
- Road Safety

2.3.1 Parking & access

Of the 308 people who confirmed that they had a vehicle, 121 are experiencing some parking difficulty, and 175 people (of 318 responses) said that on street parking is a hazard.

From the responses, 15 people are registered disabled and 28 are finding facilities in the Parish hard to access.

Of the text replies to the parking questions, by far the majority cite the Parish Hall Car Park (including pub)/ Greenway Lane and Sunnyside (rear car park) as the worst parking and access problem areas.

Conclusion: The Parish Hall committee may wish to consider their parking facilities and access with the other possible issues from later questions.

Parking is causing a hazard at the school, Sunnyside and Weston (particularly the cottages and the Weston Cross junction). The Weston Cross junction is cited in one reply as “an accident waiting to happen”.

Conclusion: These areas and other traffic dangers are all identified and dealt with in the ‘Road Safety’ sub-section.

2.3.2 Use of public/community transport

To the question 'do you use the bus or Ring and Ride from Awliscombe or Weston?', only 33 of 333 replies said that they used the bus and only 6 of 302 replies said that they used Ring & Ride. Within these numbers most people (15) used this transport daily, 3 weekly, 2 occasionally and 10 for shopping.

We surveyed how you rate the bus service. There were only a small number of replies (the largest number of replies on any question was 16). The service good points are route coverage, adherence to timetable and cleanliness. Poor points are infrequency and inconvenience of timetable.

We also asked what the reasons were for not using public or community transport (more than one reason could be listed). 290 people responded.

Reason	Count
Not aware of timetables	43
Infrequent service	62
Route/connections not meeting need	51
Unavailable at regular times	44
Too hard to use	5
Too far to pick up points	26
Cost of service	4
Private transport more convenient	234

The infrequent service and unavailability at regular times is in line with the same concerns identified by those who use the services.

There were few text answers in this sub section. However views expressed included 'a friendly service', 'two services a week through Weston into Honiton would not encourage regular use (e.g. to catch a train)' and the services were not helpful when carrying large or heavy loads.

The last aspect of this sub-section surveyed a possible car share scheme. There were around 200 replies to each of the possible help options with around 14 people saying that they did not have a car. The results supporting a car share scheme are:

Help	Support
To/from work	29
Shopping	54
School run	39
Social Leisure	98
To/from church activities	48
To/from Parish Hall	80
Local airport/train	52
Hospital/doctor	72
Collecting prescriptions	69

Conclusion: The majority of parishioners say that private transport is more convenient, and with public transport failing to meet the needs of commuters or those wishing to connect with other transport from Honiton, only a better knowledge of, and improved and convenient timetable might encourage greater use of public transport.

The Parish Council now has an opportunity to provide input to, and comment on, plans and proposals from Honiton's Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTi), and should take into account the concerns with the infrequency of the service and inconvenience of the timetable. Honiton's MCTi has a current commitment to reviewing traffic and transport policy (including public transport into Honiton from out of town areas).

2.3.3 Road safety

The questions on road safety had many responses and the most wide ranging text comments. It is a major issue that needs to be addressed.

2.3.3.1 Danger spots

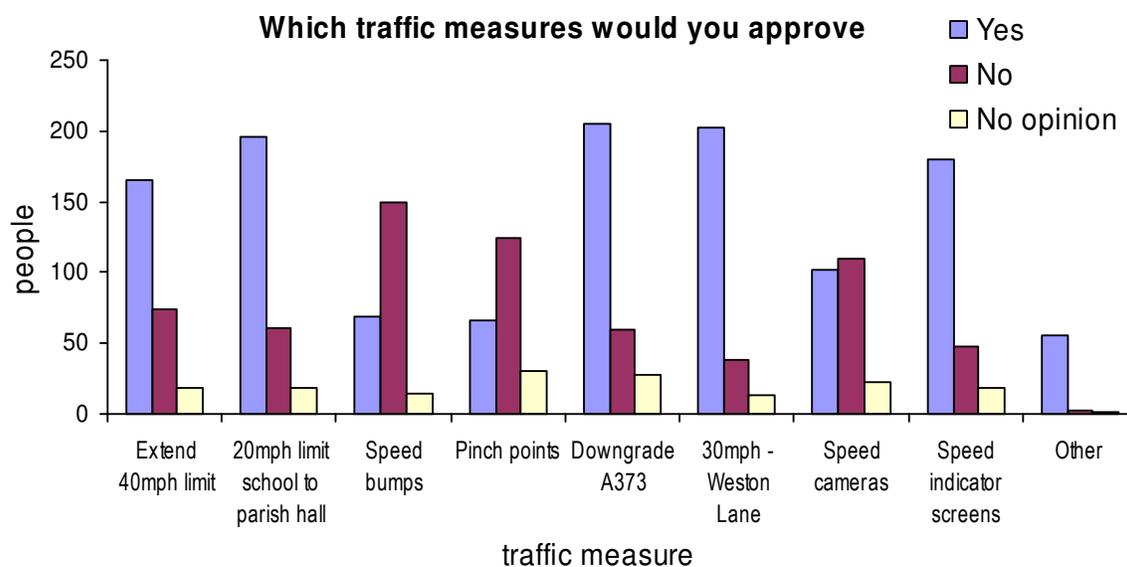
Of the 328 people who answered the question 'are there any danger spots on the roads in the Parish', 281 said YES, with only a total of 47 saying no or no opinion. The text comments identified many hazards and junctions from Hembury Fort to Honiton (A373), and Weston Lane through Weston. The majority of the specific 'danger spot' comments focus upon:

Weston

- Weston Lane junction with the Buckerell Road (including bend just north of
- Weston Cross) (also parking hazard at the cottages from previous section)
- Trafalgar Bridge
- Cherry Bridge

Awliscombe

- A373 junction with Church Hill
- A373 outside the school (attendance /departure times) (also parking hazard from previous section).
- A373 Sunnyside, crest of hill (also parking hazard from previous section)
- A373 junction with Layzells
- A373 junction with Greenway Lane
- A373 bends Godford X, Millfords/Layzells
- A373 junction with Ivedon Farm
- A373 Hembury Fort
- A373 Huntshayes Corner



2.3.4 Traffic management measures

There were many positive views on possible 'traffic management measures'. Many were against 'speed bumps' (149 out of 232 responses) and against 'pinch points' (125 out of 222 responses). The use of speed cameras (110 out of 234 responses) was marginal.

The five opinions with a greater than 50% support were:

- Weston Lane speed limit reduced to 30mph (203 out of 254, 80%)
- Speed Indicator Screens (180 out of 246, 73%)
- Downgrade A373 (205 out of 292, 70%)
- A 20mph speed limit between the School and Parish Hall (196 out of 276, 71%).
- Extend existing 40mph limit (on A373) (165 out of 258, 64%)

Text comments showed support for an A373 downgrade (by a ban or restriction on HGVs). Other comments focus on further reduction of speed throughout the Parish and at hazard points a possible use of 'People Live Here' signs, visible police presence, an alternative route (to the 'rat run') between Weston and Awliscombe,

use of double yellow lines to restrict parking in hazard areas and speed related/linked traffic lights.

This chart shows graphically how the question on Traffic Measurement was answered. In this chart the numbers answering ‘No’ and ‘No Opinion’ have been added together.

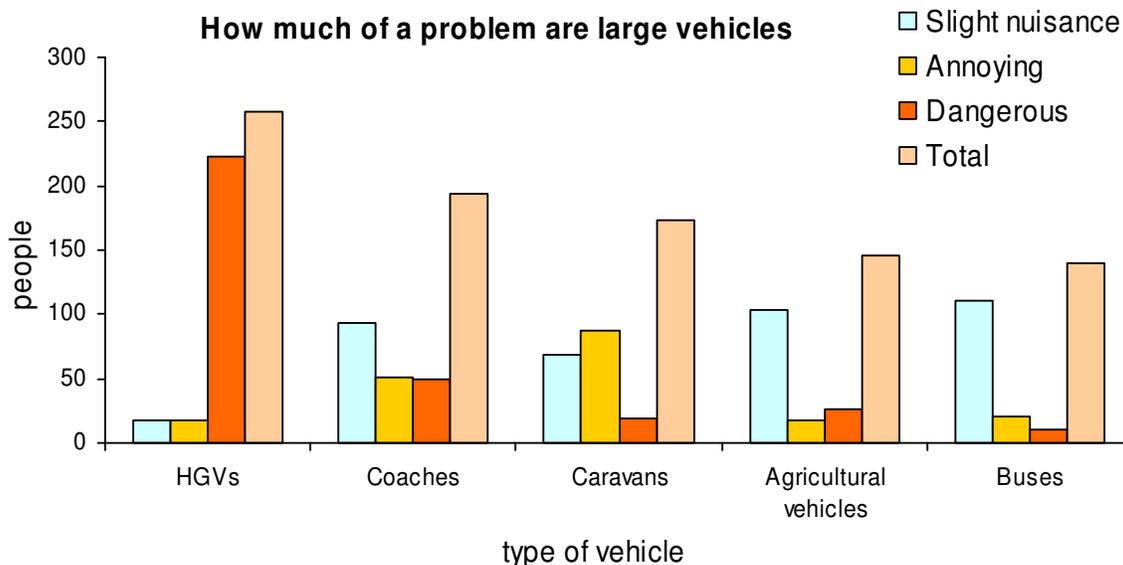
2.3.5 Pedestrian safety

Question 28 asked about improving pedestrian safety. Pedestrian footpaths had by far the greatest measure of support, with 244 out of 293 responses. 119 out of 238 favoured street lighting and 139 out of 253 responses favoured a crossing.

Text comments supporting these figures in general suggest a range of footpaths on the A373 between Awliscombe and Honiton. Many comments focus on a road footpath covering the A373 between Godford Cross and Winneford Lane; specific emphasis is placed in the areas from the School to Godford Cross, Awliscombe Inn to Parish Hall, Parish Hall to Marles Close, and on the A373 at Sunnyside. Lighting between the School and Godford Cross was well commented upon, as too is a crossing outside of the school and A373 at Greenway Lane.

Other pedestrian safety improvements suggested were a School Crossing Patrol, signs indicating village on main road, and road markings to slow traffic.

2.3.6 Large Vehicles



This chart illustrates the response to question 29 which asked if large vehicles are a problem, 274 out of 340, 81% said YES.

Conclusion: The question of road safety, particularly pedestrian footpaths on the A373, HGVs, and vehicle speed throughout the Parish are the key issues that dominate this section on road safety. Road safety is also a major focus area in the

answer to question 53. This asked for your priority on the issues in the questionnaire and also gave an opportunity to identify areas not covered in the questionnaire.

Some actions on road safety are already underway; signage on the M5 advising that the A373 is not suitable for heavy vehicles now has Devon County Council funding; the Parish Council has asked our Police Beat Manager to advise on use /cost (we already know it doesn't come cheap) of 'Speed Indicator Screens'. While these actions need pursuing, road traffic is not an area for which the Parish Council has any direct management control, and a piecemeal approach may not achieve needed 'holistic' results. It is therefore recommended that the Parish Council seek meetings with the Police, East Devon District Council and Devon County Council to discuss the results of this survey together with all the comments raised in order to identify and agree with these parties an Awliscombe Parish policy on road safety, the actions which will be pursued with third parties, a means of funding proposed actions, and actions which the Parish Council may be able to manage.

2.4 Environment

2.4.1 Litter

Of the 339 people who replied to this question, 269 (79%) did not consider this to be a problem in the Parish. However, 53% questioned were prepared to take part in a periodic Parish clean up day which indicates a need, which was also commented on in the question - 'Pride in Your Parish'. A number of volunteers put their names forward with offers of help.

Conclusion: The Parish Council will wish to discuss the safety aspects of this activity with the police. Anyone willing to organise this, as an activity, should first contact a member of the Parish Council.

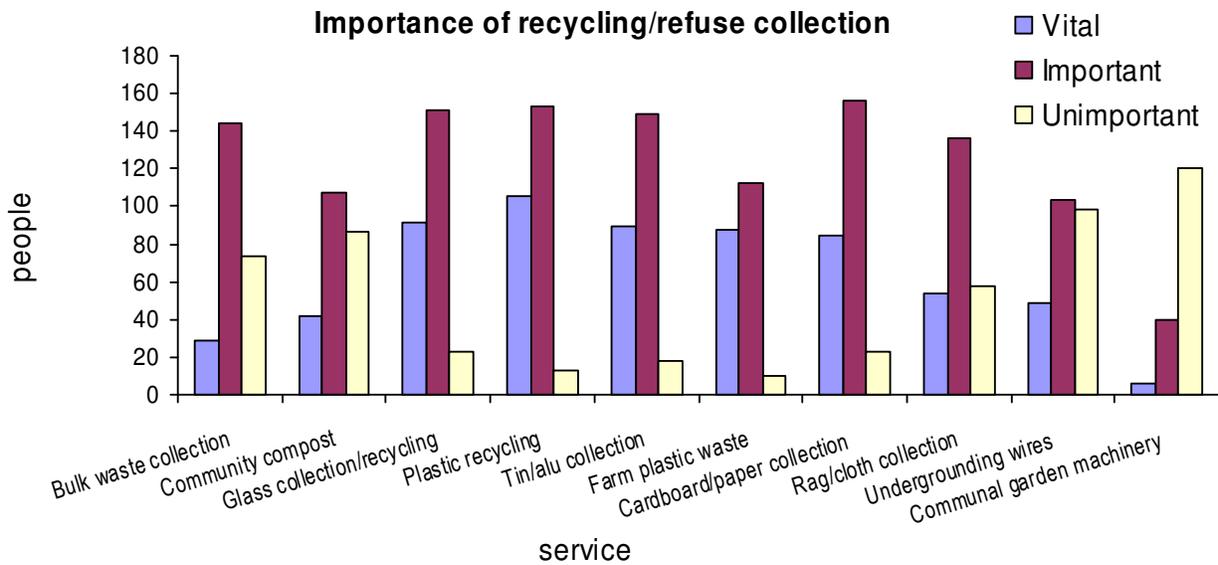
2.4.2 Dog Mess

328 people answered this question, but only 46 (14%) considered it a problem. The main areas of concern were in the vicinity of the Church and School, however strong feelings were expressed about the mess left generally along the roads and lanes. One suggestion was for the introduction of strategically placed dog mess bins.

Conclusion: The Parish Council has reviewed the use of dog mess bins in the past with East Devon District Council. As circumstances may have changed a further review of the problem and options available (including dog owner education/use of signs) should be reviewed with the School, Church Wardens and East Devon District Council.

2.4.3 Recycling

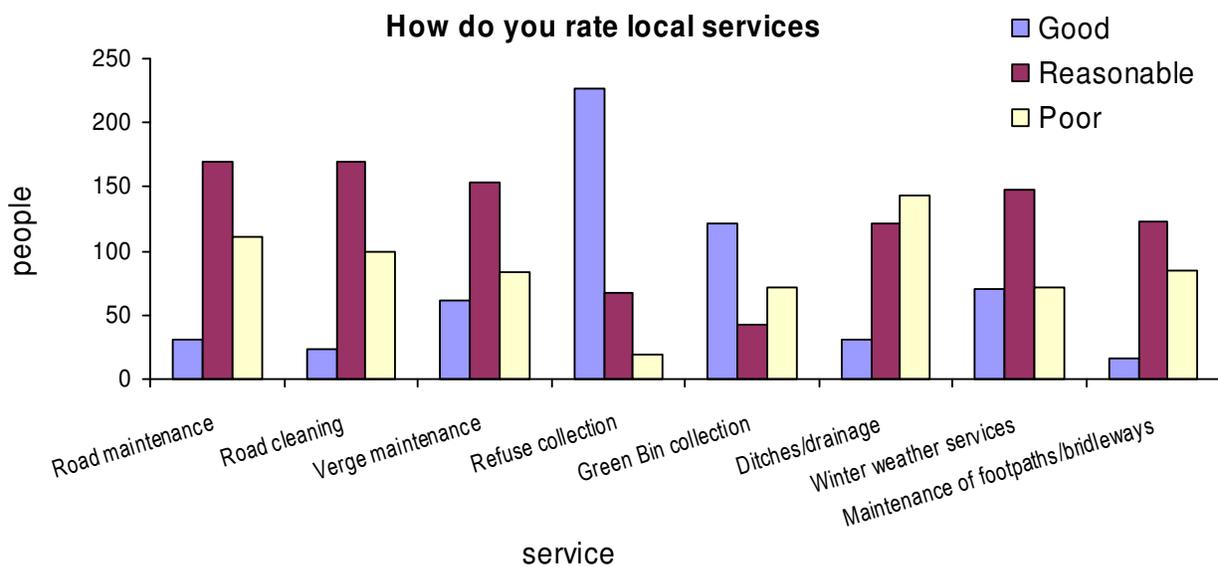
The questionnaire showed there to be clear support for recycling as shown here:



Conclusion: The figures show that there is a need to extend recycling collections to include plastics, cardboard and farm plastic waste. Bulk waste (cookers etc.) and community compost facilities also received a response that should be reviewed for possible actions by the Parish Council and East Devon District Council.

2.4.4 Local Services

This is best shown in the following chart:



2.4.5 Refuse Collection

The figures suggest that the majority of people find the service satisfactory.

2.4.5.1 Green Bins

From the responses received 90 households have a green bin and 79 do not. Where bins are provided 88% were used and where bins are not provided 82% said they would use one if made available to them

2.4.5.2 Green Bin Collection

Response shows that although just over half indicated the service was good/reasonable, nearly a quarter considered it poor.

From all the comments gathered the following suggestions can be considered for review and action:

- Increase availability and collection areas of green bins within the Parish
- Increase the frequency of collections
- Consider wheelie bins for 'green' produce.

Conclusion: With new refuse and re-cycling contracts starting in April 2006, the Parish Council should review on-going progress of the East Devon District Council 100% household target collection.

2.4.6 Road & Road Maintenance

Many people felt this to be poor.

Conclusion: Parishioners can take major concerns directly to Devon County Council Highways and copy the Parish Council. Regarding more minor actions (e.g. pot holes), Parishioners might first wish to contact the Parish Council who regularly liaise with the lengthsman and Highways Agency on minor issues.

2.4.7 Disturbances

Responses together with additional comments suggest two main areas of concern. From the 276 responses 106 said low flying aircraft and 102 said road traffic noise was a problem. Others cited motorcycle scrambling (22), farm animals in gardens (20), and noisy neighbours (17). The nine others included noisy dogs and shooting near housing.

Conclusion: Similar to road traffic speeding, Parishioners should keep a log of specific disturbances (type/specific incidents, dates, times, place). These can be collated by the Parish Council and passed onto the relevant authorities.

2.5 Concerns for Future Proposals for the Parish

The largest number of responses (210) made communications masts their first choice, followed by wind turbines (160), poly tunnel culture (133). Other concerns (12) identified concerns over traveller's sites, building of a recycling centre, allocation of land for landfill sites and inappropriate buildings. Further general concerns were for any activities that would be likely to spoil the area.

Conclusion: These points could be considered for adoption as part of Parish Council policy when considering future planning applications, possibly considered if a Village Design Statement is progressed and discussed with East Devon District Council for their formal adoption when also considering future planning proposals.

2.6 Neighbourhood Watch

Of the 167 responses, a total of 113 either did not live within a registered Neighbourhood Watch area or did not know if they lived in such an area. 74 have said they would join a registered scheme.

Conclusion: There appears to be an interest to extend Neighbourhood Watch.

2.7 Sports, social & entertainment

2.7.1 Playing Field & Clubhouse Facilities

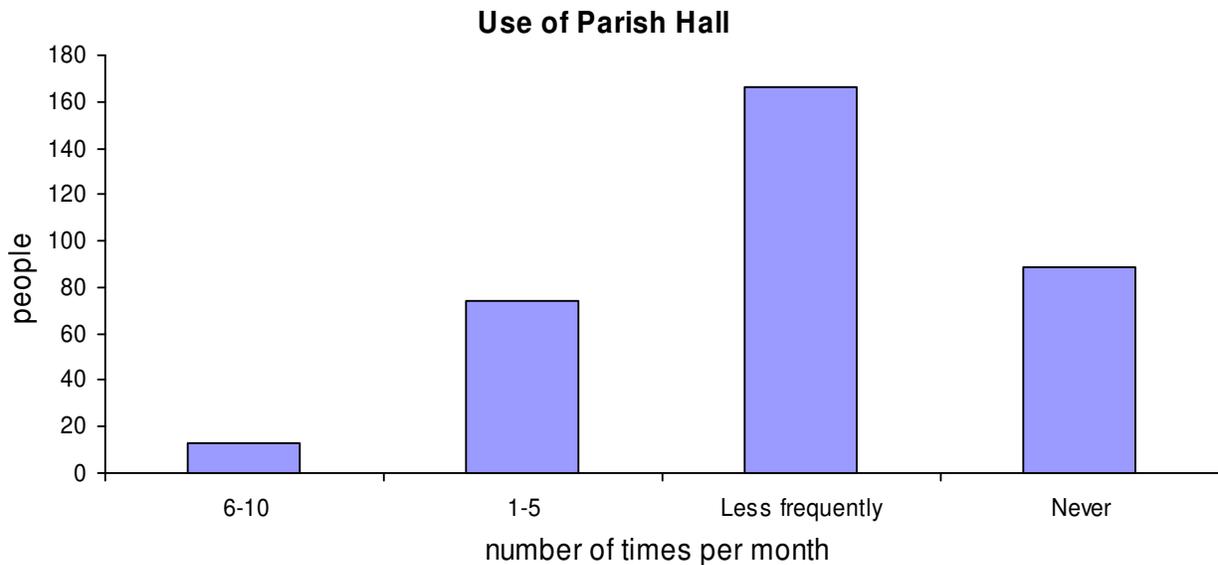
When asked "does the Parish need a playing field and clubhouse facilities for outdoor sports?" 236 (of the 330 replies) said YES and 32 said NO. This strength of feeling was further qualified in question 53 where these facilities were highlighted as one of the key priorities for the Parish.

There were 97 responses covering 33 different activities to the question of "which sports or social activity would you join if they were available in the Parish?" The most popular were tennis, badminton and cricket. Other interests covered were from craft/pottery groups to clay pigeon shooting and salsa dancing.

The highest number of people (98 of 215 replies) also said YES to the question of car sharing for sports and social events. This might prove significant if any facilities were made available outside of the centre of the Parish.

2.7.2 Parish Hall

This chart covers the responses for use of the Parish Hall and the adequacy of the Parish Hall.



The figure show that those who use the Parish Hall regularly believe that the facilities are inadequate compared with those who use the Parish Hall less than once a month believe the Parish Hall to be adequate.

Many of the comments received from those who support the hall said that they would like a new hall or to enlarge/upgrade the existing hall, particularly with improvements to the toilet and kitchen areas. Concerns were also expressed over parking and the lack of an outdoor area. The responses identified 76 children under the age of 16, with 57 positive responses (from questions 6 and 7) that suggest a need for a children's playground and a pre-school nursery, both of which would require an outdoor area.

Your comments suggested that table tennis, badminton and a youth club without a Christian aspect may be considered as additional evening activities.

2.7.3 Facilities for 11-18 Years

Question 41 asked for text comments from this age group. The main comments were:

- Playground/sports facility
- A place to meet and socialise
- BMX or MOTO track
- Art/craft club

Other comments included bridleways for horses, 5-a-side facilities, skate park, and tennis and badminton courts.

Conclusion: The Parish Hall, Church, School, and local pubs probably form the heart of this Parish. There is much support for a clubhouse/playing field. It need not incorporate a new Parish Hall, but could provide facilities for a playground and outdoor area for children (not available with existing Parish Hall) as well as possible indoor sports facilities and another meeting place. From comments in this section and other sections of the survey (e.g. suggestions for a Saturday market, coffee club, craft/pottery groups, youth club), there appears to be some desire to improve/extend upon existing Parish Hall facilities and functions. If these improved facilities and possibly space (e.g. by building upwards or moving to new site) did occur, it might be self funding with growing usage from some additional activities occurring at the same time.

The Parish Hall Committee should first consider if the provision of playing fields, any children's facilities and/or a new clubhouse or Parish Hall is within their remit, or if continued management of the Parish Hall is their only agenda. A separate group may be needed to drive a playing field/clubhouse project (possibly with facilities for a children's playground and opportunity for pre-school nursery).

The Parish Council will need to remain aware of the intentions of the Honiton MCTi who have a vision to erect a large sports facility including facilities for local club use in the local area. Both the Honiton MCTi plans and the Parish Hall Committee plans could affect the scale of Awliscombe's provision of sports/clubhouse facilities.

2.8 Education

Two questions were asked. The first, if facilities at the school were made available outside school hours, would you use them? 90 people said YES, 151 said NO and 65 expressed no opinion. Some comments were made as to what facilities were or could be made available. Comments from those who said what they would like to use were computing suite facilities (with training), evening classes/adult education including craft classes, yoga and amateur dramatics, use of the library and administrative equipment.

Other suggestions included use of the playground area and playing field and use of the stable block for social events.

As to whether people would be prepared to pay for the use of school facilities 91 people said YES with 15 saying NO.

Conclusion: An opportunity might exist to agree a process to use of school facilities.

2.9 Local services

2.9.1 Parish Church

You rated the importance of the Parish Church as:

Part of parish Life (236, 30%)
 As an historic building (226, 28%)
 For baptisms/weddings/funerals (207, 26%)
 For Sunday worship (115, 14%)
 As an entertainment venue (2%)

When asked if you would support the Parish Church's proposal to install toilet facilities, 209(63%) said YES, 45 (13%) said NO and 79 (24%) had no opinion.

Conclusion: The Parochial Church Council might like to note these figures. The Parish Council plans no further action at this time.

2.9.2 Parish Council

Asked how well the Parish Council publicises its decisions and activities, the responses said 36% thought reasonably well, 32% poorly, and only 20% well (the rest had no opinion). This would suggest the need for better publicity, possibly a case for inclusion in a newsletter/web site (if either or both are implemented).

2.9.3 Parish Noticeboards

How often do you look at them?

The responses showed not often enough with 161 people saying never, 140 less than 5 times a month, 32 between 5 and 10 times, and only 4 responding to more than 10 times a month. There may be an opportunity for more to be done to advise people about local matters perhaps in a newsletter/web site (if they occur).

2.9.4 Newsletter/ Web Site

Does the Parish need these?

Your answers show a resounding YES. 240 people were in favour of a regular newsletter (68 had no opinion, 33 said no).

With regards to a web site, a close result with 140 with no opinion, 130 said yes and 63 said no. The replies as to what should be included in a web site were in order of priority:

Parish Map
 Local features of interest
 Local group activity
 Contacts
 Events

Information on local businesses
 Items for sale
 Summary of Parish Council meetings
 Bus and mobile library timetables
 A parish welcome pack

There were also many other suggestions. This shows that there may be considerable interest, although a number of responses pointed out that not everyone had access to the Internet.

Conclusion: Several offers of help have been received for both newsletter and web site. The interest shown suggests there may be opportunities to involve the school and the Public Library in Honiton for the development of these facilities and to enable access to the Internet. Anyone with an interest in forming a focus group to review a feasibility of a Newsletter and/or web site should contact the Parish Council.

2.9.5 Mobile Library

You rated this library service with 44 saying good, 11 reasonable, 11 poor and 246 with no opinion. This may suggest that only a few people use it or even know about it.

Possible use of the school library was suggested from the question on “after hours use” of school facilities.

Conclusion: There could be opportunities to publicise the mobile library service through existing noticeboards and any future newsletter/web site and possibly link up with our local school (see above).

2.9.6 Community Shop

Would you use a community shop if it were available?

140 people said often, 150 occasionally and 39 never.

Conclusion: Through the Steering Group contact with the Community Council of Devon, we have access to Parishes that have their own shop. It makes a further focal point for a village, but it takes a great deal of voluntary effort to set up and maintain. If any individuals felt strongly enough to form a focus group to carry out a feasibility study, the Parish Council would welcome their thoughts.

It was also suggested that a monthly market/craft fair or café might be another activity that could provide a local meeting place. Offers of help have been received. The Parish Hall committee might wish to pursue this as an opportunity to increase (Saturday morning?) use of the Hall.

3 The action plan

This Action Plan is a 'living' document. It states at the time of publication the issues to be addressed, a vision of what is wanted, the actions planned to move towards or complete the requirement, who has lead responsibility, possible or known partners, milestones (i.e. completed actions) or timescales and achievements. The Parish Council will manage the plan on behalf of the community. This does not mean that the Parish Council has a responsibility to drive every action. The Parish Council may take a responsibility or act as a facilitator seeking local support to get actions underway. The Parish Council may need to work with groups to see what can be done or put those with a responsibility in touch with these groups as partners or to attract funding. The plan can and will change overtime.

The annual Parish Council annual general meeting would be a good time to update and report on progress, actions and changes, gathering together the status on all plans and publish these as a starting checkpoint for the forthcoming year. Progress, as it occurs may also be recorded in Parish Council minutes.

The 'Plan' is extracted from the results from the questionnaire as published earlier in the body of this document.

3.1 Housing & Business Development					
Issue	Vision	Action	Lead	Partners	Measure
Insufficient and affordable local housing	Encourage young families in particular to stay within the Parish, whilst mindful of a community desire for housing to compliment current agricultural and rural character and not lose our identity as a suburb of Honiton.	Commission a Village Design Statement to ensure no inappropriate development.	Awliscombe Parish Council	East Devon District Council Parishioner Action Group	
		Seek adoption of Supplementary Planning Guidance through East Devon District Council Local Plan	Awliscombe Parish Council	East Devon District Council	
		Monitor the need of any new housing build falls within the framework of Parish, Devon County Council, and East Devon District Council policy.	Awliscombe Parish Council	Devon County Council East Devon District Council Parishioner Action Group	
Concerns over any future large business or retail development	Encourage new small-scale employment and entrepreneurial opportunities to use existing buildings wherever possible.	Provide an initial contact point for new business start up.	Awliscombe Parish Council		
		Seek a closer relationship with the Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership	Awliscombe Parish Council	Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership	
		Support all needs for Broadband	Awliscombe Parish Council	Local telecommunication companies	
		Seek adoption of Supplementary Planning Guidance through East Devon District Council Local Plan	Awliscombe Parish Council	East Devon District Council Parishioner Action Group	
		Use Parish newsletter/website to publicise local businesses	Awliscombe Parish Council	Webmaster Newsletter editor	

3.2 Transport & Highways					
Issue	Vision	Action	Lead	Partners	Measure
Greenway Lane Road dangers and resident/Parish Hall access problems	Reduce parking in Greenway Lane at busy times. Accommodate patrons of both Parish Hall events and Awliscombe Inn	Seek advice & consider Parish Hall/Inn car parking needs with Parish Hall improvements or with new site	Parish Hall Committee	Devon County Council Devon & Cornwall Constabulary East Devon District Council	
More publicity for transport schemes and timetables	Regular access to, and awareness of, public transport timetables	Request details are input to Parish website, newsletter and notice boards	Awliscombe Parish Council	TRIP Bus companies Webmaster Newsletter editor	
Public transport timetables do not meet community needs	Integrated public transport timetables with community needs	Ensure Awliscombe community needs are made known to Honiton MCTi	Awliscombe Parish Council	Honiton MCTi	
Car Sharing	Parishioners have access/knowledge of car sharing scheme(s)	Review available options with partners. Call local meeting	Awliscombe Parish Council	Devon Car Share Community Cars Parishioner Action Group	
		Publicise options/schemes	Awliscombe Parish Council	Webmaster Newsletter editor Noticeboards	
Road Safety	Safer Roads within the Parish for all users	Inform Devon County Council, East Devon District Council & Police of community concerns from the survey and agree actions	Awliscombe Parish Council	Devon County Council East Devon District Council Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	
		Maintain Pressure on Devon County Council to implement agreed M5 signage	Awliscombe Parish Council	Devon County Council	
		Follow up on Speed Indicator Screens	Awliscombe Parish Council	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	

3.3 Environment					
Issue	Vision	Action	Lead	Partners	Measure
Litter	Roads & hedgerows free of litter	Review collection safety aspects with Police. Call a meeting with interested parties	Awliscombe Parish Council	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	
		Run a clean up	Parishioners Action Group	Parishioners	
Dog mess	No dog mess in village centre	Confirm problem exists in village centre with partners and review actions	Awliscombe Parish Council	School Church wardens East Devon District Council	
General recycling & green bins	More Parish recycling capability	Advise survey results & review opportunities for early trials and community education from East Devon District Council's new recycling contract	Awliscombe Parish Council	East Devon District Council	
Road maintenance	Empowered community action	Publicise how parishioners can address highway concerns	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parishioners	
Disturbances	Empowered community action	Publicise how parishioners can address concerns of a disturbance	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parishioners	
Changes to the landscape	PC policy for planning reviews	Adopt as policy and include as part of Supplementary Planning Guidance	Awliscombe Parish Council	East Devon District Council	
Neighbourhood Watch	Improve NHW coverage as required by the community	Call a meeting to determine community support for additional Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parishioners Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	

3.4 Sports, Social & Entertainment					
Issue	Vision	Action	Lead	Partners	Measure
Parish Hall & clubhouse / playing field	Parish Hall facilities to meet the needs of the community	Review survey results to determine future direction, facilities responsibility and community needs	Parish Hall Committee	Parish community groups	
		Monitor MCTi's plans for large sports complex and keep PHC advised	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parish Hall Committee	

3.5 Education					
Issue	Vision	Action	Lead	Partners	Measure
Use of existing school facilities	Availability of existing school facilities to support community projects & education	Review possible use of facilities with a management process to cover security, access and funding	Awliscombe Parish Council	School	
		Call meeting of interested parishioners	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parishioners Action Group	

3.6 Local Services					
Issue	Vision	Action	Lead	Partners	Measure
Parish Publicity & Communications	Availability of local community news & publicity	Call meeting of interested parishioners to review the support to develop a Community Newsletter	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parishioners Action Group	
		Call meeting of interested parishioners to review the support to develop a Community Web Site	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parishioners Action Group	
Availability of Mobile Library	All community is aware of Mobile Library and opportunity to talk to local police	Publicise Mobile Library and police schedule	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parishioners	
Community Shop	Local household buying facilities	Call meeting of interested parishioners to review the support for a shop and/or regular market craft/fair	Awliscombe Parish Council	Parishioners Action Group Parish Hall Committee	

If you, or someone you know, needs this document in another format,
or you have a general enquiry relating to this plan please contact:

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