

# **Harbertonford** **Village Survey 2009**

**Harbertonford Sports & Social Group**  
**February 2010**

## **1. Response to the survey**

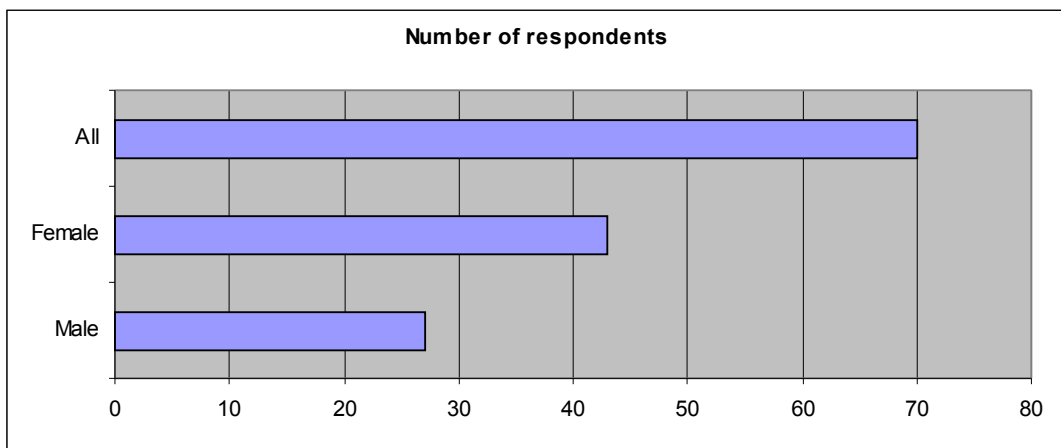
The survey forms were distributed with Village Life at the end of November, while additional forms were available at the village shop and could be downloaded from the village website.

The forms could be returned into boxes in the village shop, garage and pub, with the bulk of the returns being collected at the shop. Altogether, 65 responses were received representing 70 individuals.

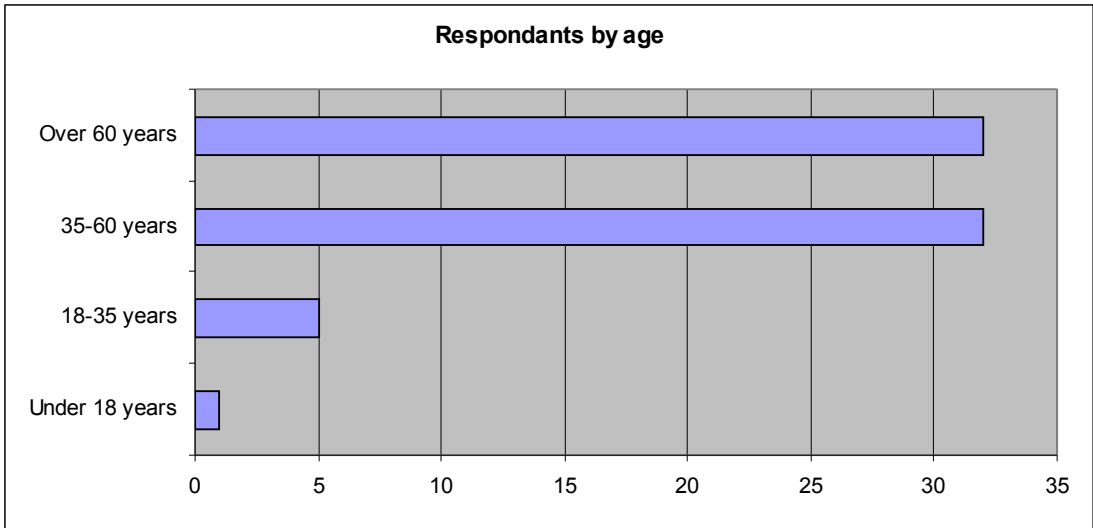
Not all respondents answered all questions. Much of the analysis is expressed as percentages of the total response, with any difference from 100% representing non response to the specific question.

## **2. Profile of respondents.**

The majority of responses were from females accounting for 43 of the total, with 27 from males.



Only one response was received from someone under 18 years of age with the great bulk of responses coming from people over 35 years of age.

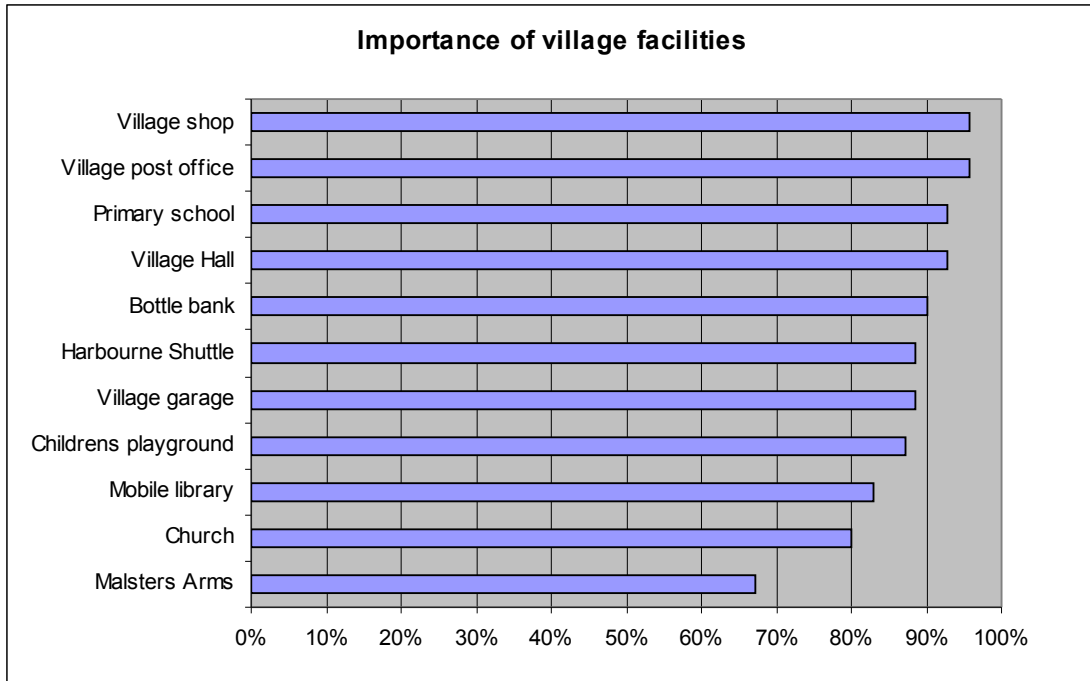


The distribution of respondents by length of time lived in the village was more even, ranging from 1 month to over 60 years.

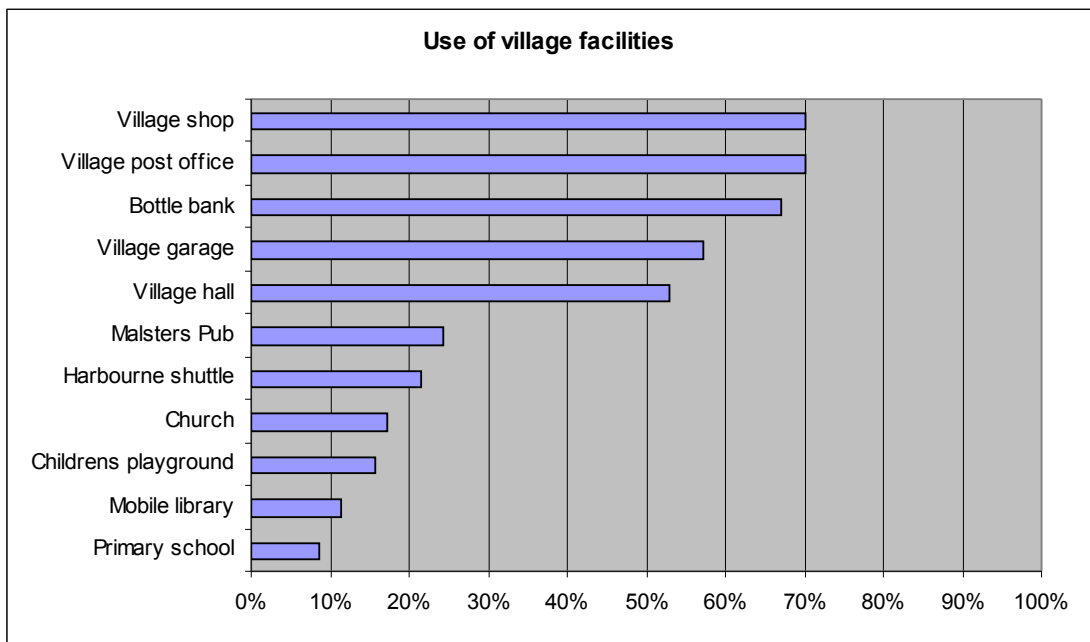


### 3. Village facilities

All the facilities were regarded as important with the village shop and post office scoring over 90%. However, only 67% overall considered the Malsters Pub important, although the proportion rose to 80% for male responses.



The village shop and post office together with the bottle bank attracted the most users of facilities with the primary school and the mobile library receiving least use, reflecting in part the age groups of the respondents. The village shop was particularly important for those in the 35-60 age groups and those people who moved into the village within the last ten years.



Respondents made a number of comments with regard to possible improvements to village facilities.

Bottle bank

Could be emptied more regularly.  
Tetra pack bank.  
Could be emptied more frequently.  
Emptied more often.  
Lorry not always able to empty bottle bank due to parked cars.  
Recycle drink containers eg milk.  
Empty more often.  
Empty more often, not space for all colours.  
Another one.  
New location where driving in/out not dangerous.  
Rubbish bin adjacent.

### Children's playground

*Football goals*  
*Used by me in the past*

### Church

*Repairs and maintenance*  
*This would make a brilliant youth centre or pub*

### Harbourne shuttle

*Change times on Friday in 8am out 11:30am.*  
*Not sure if this is important to Harbertonford.*

### Malsters Pub

Good if food was available.  
For meetings not very friendly for social occasions.  
By doing good food.  
Needs relocating.  
Serve food.  
More welcoming - looks down at heel.  
Outside seating.  
Could the pub move to a better site?  
Could be updated.  
Unfriendly.  
Needs substantial improvement and upgrading in operation!

### Mobile library

*Later time as working people can't access this facility*

### Primary school

Improvements to outside area.  
Wild flowers could be encouraged to grow on the steep grassy banks at front of school.  
School could set an example by having some ecological heating eg. Solar panels.  
Scrap/boycott SATS test.  
Used by me in the past.

### Village garage

DVDs too pricey.  
Best food prices going.

Village Hall

Less noise at late night.  
Better lighting for performers.  
Cleaner, better storage. Remove permanent stage and have moveable platforms - more flexible. Needs easier booking arrangements.  
We should all try and use it and make it even better.  
Make over very drab.  
Further upgrading of facilities and parking.

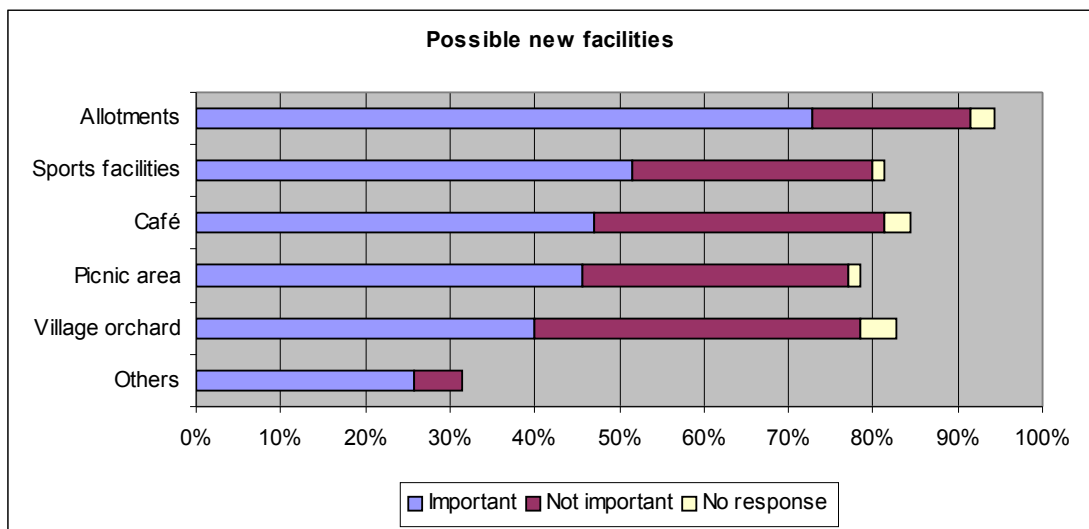
Village Post Office

VIP.  
Essential.

Village shop

Garage could replace shop if shop fails.  
Essential.

With regard to possible new facilities, over 70% of respondents considered allotments important, with a higher proportion of women and people living in the village for less than ten years. People over 60 years old and those living in the village for more than ten years considered them less important than the average. Sports facilities were considered important by the 20-60 age group and those moving to the village in the last ten years. The provision of a café attracted a higher proportion of females and younger people regarding it as important than the average.



Comments included:

Allotments

Possibly used by me.  
Parish Council must act.  
Maybe?

### Cafe

Would be nice especially in summer but not important.  
Would be nice.  
Would be most welcome to have somewhere to have a coffee, cakes, sandwiches.  
It would be lovely.  
Why did Crowdy Mill fail?  
Nice idea.

### Picnic Area

Already use area opp. shop at river bank.  
This could be incorporated into countryside/woodland area that allowed dog walking.  
(Responsible faeces collectors of course) eg nursery land on Bow Road.  
Not feasible unless paths improved.  
Would be nice - have village green.

### Sports facilities

But would definitely use it on a regular basis.  
Badminton.  
Good idea.  
Does Diptford benefit from its court?  
An idea but expensive and wouldn't be well used.

### Village orchard

Visual necessary for urban environment here, pollution, etc.  
Would be nice  
And nut trees !!!  
This could be incorporated into countryside/woodland area that allowed dog walking.  
(Responsible faeces collectors of course) eg nursery land on Bow Road.

### Other improvements

Public footpaths & cycle paths - especially along river to Beenleigh.  
More parking areas no parking by post office entrance.  
There is absolutely nowhere for dogs to go for walks without being on lead on a busy road.  
Even behind mill cars constantly coming along. We desperately need a field for dogs  
providing, of course, it is used responsibly not dog mess left about. It works in Strete where  
we used to live.  
A dodgeball court.  
Street cleaner cleaning up further afield than the heart of the village area.  
Zebra crossing - safer crossing to other side of road. More events in the community hall.  
Yoga? Pilates?  
Parking - major problem.  
Redecorate pub make it more welcoming - pub food too.  
Something to do for the older teenagers.  
Village hall needs replacing/rebuilding.

*I would love the old card bus timetables back. They were fab. I would like more info on the Harbourne Shuttle.*

*There's a great variety of stuff on - I only wish I didn't have to work most evenings, so I could come along.*

*Revive the woollen mill to hydro system to power some of the village! What a fantasy - could the dam generate power by installing a turbine? The mill really ought to be made into workshops for villagers and a youth centre.*

*The use of the swimming pool by the community during summer time.*

*Café would be excellent.*

*Permissive footpaths and public open space - particularly the nature reserve should be a public space.*

*Car Parking.*

*A wind turbine/water turbine bought by the village and income generated as in other examples in the UK and abroad.*

*Access on the river down to Watermans from the village.*

*Dog walking field. Public toilets. Public car park (large).*

*More support for the village pub and the activities it provides.*

*Consider making the church dual use - church and sport hall.*

*A decent pub well run and with space sufficient for all to use. Investigation of Old Mill and whether this could be obtained, converted into say workshops, café, flats. Perhaps centre for power generation from river etc.*

#### **4. Village activities**

Of the village activities listed in the questionnaire, 40% of respondents claimed to already be involved or use the Fun Day, Street Party and Village Hall Events. Nobody admitted to taking part in Appalachian dancing although one person did express an interest in possibly taking part.

Of those activities where people expressed an interest in possibly taking part, Local History attracted the most interest, although most of the activities attracted some response.

Comments included:

Cricket

Ladies team

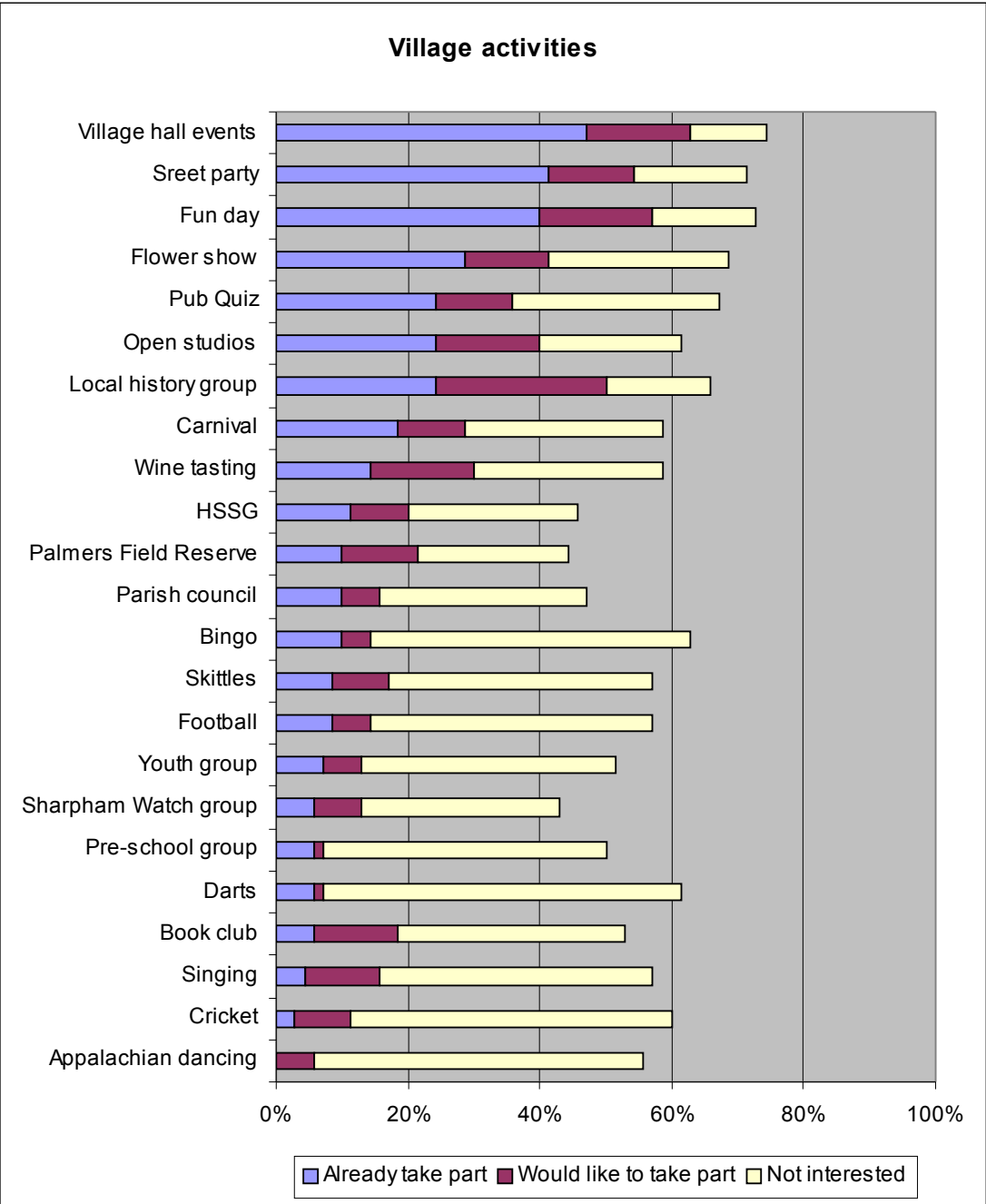
Flower show

Interested but don't want to get involved

HSSG

Very important





*Palmers Field Reserve*

*Not interested until it is open to whole village/public  
 More volunteers needed  
 Walk there sometimes*

*Parish Council*

*Make occasional forays into council meetings.*

Pre-school group

*Important*

Pub Quiz

*Have taken part only once.*

*Not interested due to pub operation.*

Singing

*Village choir ?*

Skittles

*Interested to have it available*

Wine tasting

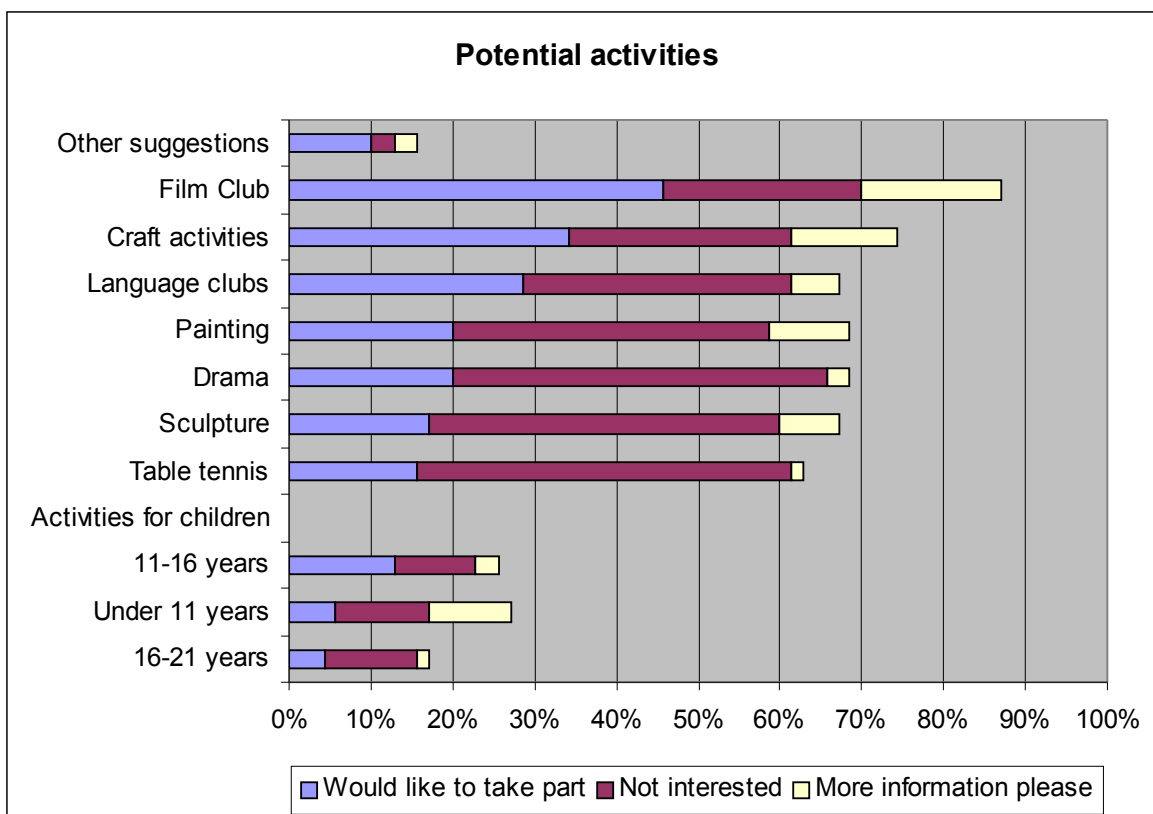
*Sometimes would like to take part*

Youth Group

*Important*

*Interested but I can't be everywhere*

The response to potential new activities was generally lower than for the existing activities. The most popular suggestion was for craft activities and a film club. Eight people asked for more information for the former and seven for the latter. Women were generally more likely to express interest in taking part, while interest declined with increasing age and length of time living in the village.



Comments received included:

Craft activities

*Interested but no capacity  
 Could teach some  
 Possibly - I ran them once upon a time*

Drama

*Would go to shows*

Film Club

*Maybe would like to take part  
 Interested  
 Yes please*

Language club

*Interested  
 Italian*

Painting

*Interested  
 Could teach too*

### Table tennis

*Possibly*

There were few responses with regard to activities for young people. 4 people suggested more activities for the under 11 age group, and the same number for the 22-14 age group.

### Activities for children

*Possibly would like to take part.*

*More needed, although I'm not a parent! Especially 14-17 age group. 16 year olds don't like to do the same things as 11 year olds.*

*Would like to see these take place and would provide some sort of art activity if so.*

*My son would like to take part.*

### Other suggestions

*Pottery/Raku workshop.*

*Craft activities - there was a free Xmas wreath making class a few years ago - only 4 of us went.*

*Dodgeball.*

*I should like to see Crowdy Mill working again.*

*Am concerned about youth club. Great to have a club but needs more "professional" skilled organisation and support. Current organisers don't seem to welcome other support.*

*I do think it'd be great if kids had a "hang out"/skateboard area, instead of using Bow Road. Also - anyone for Pilates or yoga in the village hall.*

*Alternative energy group, if there are people interested. Visiting speakers from the outside world, speaking on diverse subjects.*

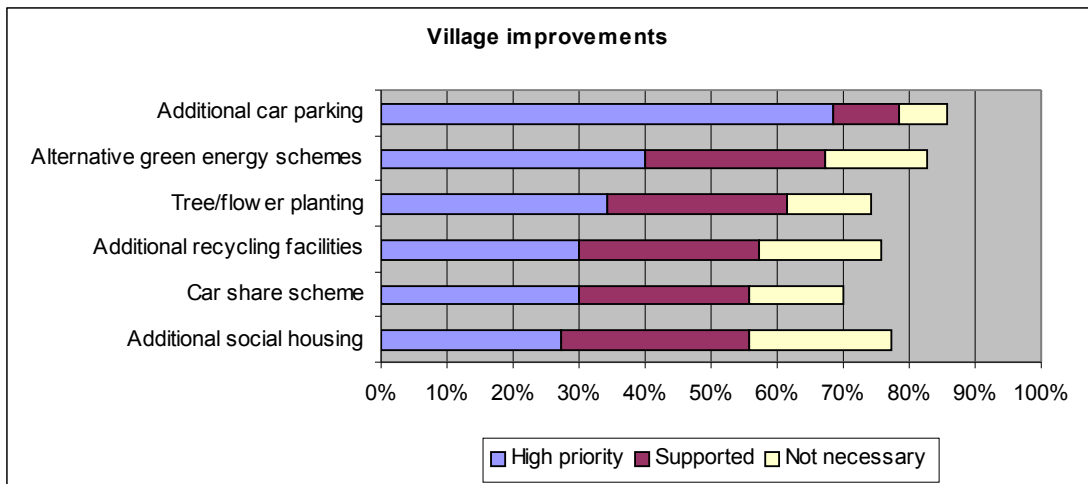
*Age appropriate youth activities as youth club does not really cater for this age group (11-16 years)*

*Energy auditing of buildings in the village and energy advice.*

*Luncheon club monthly perhaps. Village socials occasionally using village hall.*

## **5 Improvements to the village**

Of the five improvements listed in the questionnaire, two-thirds of the respondents gave a high priority to additional car parking. Additional social housing and car share schemes were given a high priority by only a third of respondents. There was a relatively strong support for alternative green energy schemes with over two-thirds of respondents marking it as high priority and/or supported.



Comments included:

Additional recycling facilities

Not necessary. Totnes and Torr Quarry OK.  
No space.

Car share scheme

Unlikely to use.

Alternative green energy schemes

Needs discussion on - vital to address.

Tree/flower planting

Nice idea.

Other suggestions

More public footpaths - access to woodland. Cycle paths - access to the river towards Beenleigh.

It would be nice to have a couple of small trees and some bushes planted in the church yard - perhaps in the corners so they don't interfere with the graves, but encourage birds/butterflies . . . Additional parking would encourage more cars, probably!

Tennis court would be good - pub to provide food

Cars expand to fit the space available. To limit parking space. Flood protection comes before social housing. There would be more trees and flowers if farmers' field margins were wider - and more skylarks too.

Better enforcement of parking regulations.

Maybe scheme for co-ordinating lifts/car share for journey to work.

Very unsure about "additional social housing". I love the fields and know that most new affordable housing is NOT affordable to many people at all.

Community garage in Mill to work on cars etc - rentable covered space. The skip provided by council was good: village swap day could be instituted instead.

An allotment would satisfy social as well as horticultural interests.

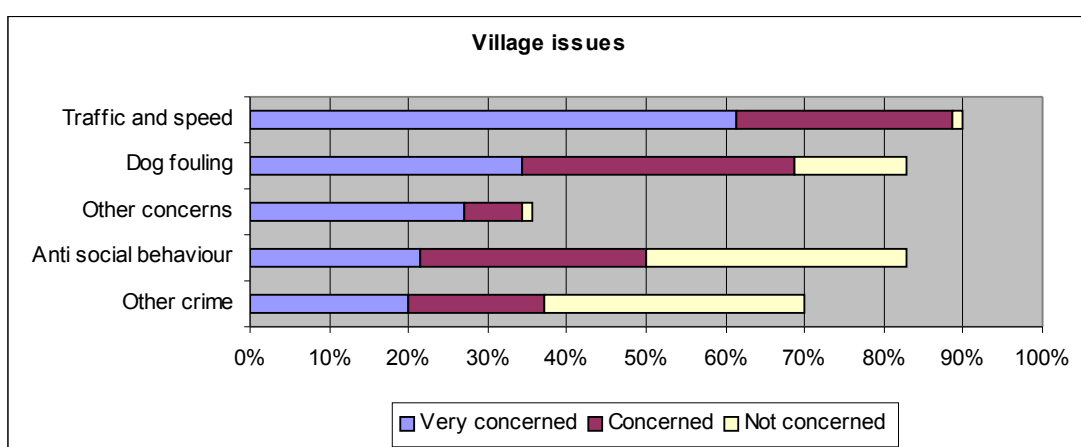
20 mph speed limit, speed bumps, better ped. crossing, speed camera. Evening bus service. Plant the churchyard so it isn't so dreary.

Remove the black bollards by the bus stop as path never used - create proper parking bays leaving road more free.

20mph speed limit on Old Road as cars come down too fast - very dangerous for children and pets. Speed humps.

## **6 Village issues**

Traffic and speed were the issue of most concern to respondents with nearly 90% very concerned or concerned. Dog fouling attracted the second highest score, with 35% very concerned and a further 34% concerned. Anti-social behaviour and other crime were reported as very concerning by 21% of respondents, while 34% were not concerned by these two issues.



Comments included:

### Anti-social behaviour

*Is there any?*

### Dog fouling

*Most owners obey law.*

### Other crime

*Whoever nicked Stephen's bike in 1985, he wishes they would bring it back!*

### Other issues

*Rubbish/litter on village roads and in bus shelter - more bins? I would like to see a 20mph limit for the entire village and possibly Bow Road made into a play street altho don't know if the latter is possible with so many cars there and with nowhere else for them to park.*

*Need a new zebra crossing where you can see both ways as car speed through the village. Can we have a speed camera also.*

*Too much traffic down Woodland Road, going too fast. No foot path, very dangerous.*

*Repaint the bus shelter but install camera to catch graffiti vandal. Either the pest or his parents must be made responsible for redecoration costs.*

*Main road - still dangerous. By pass would be good.*

*Reduce light pollution outside 10/11 Bow Road. Fulfilling council housing targets at the expense of flood safety.*

*On the crossing, cars still approach too fast.*

*People who live on their own in the village (support if ill or old).*

*The 30mph limit through the village is hardly ever enforced. It ought to be 20mph.*

*My main concern is the parking situation and the proposed new development which will exacerbate the problem. It is not just a question of accommodating home owners' own cars but also those of visitors to the village - as their number will increase when more houses are built !*

*Speed humps in Old Road would be effective. Also permanent speed camera on main road.*

*I think we are tremendously lucky here - and it would be nice if people with dogs cleared up poo especially on Hernaford Lane and Fordstock field.*

*Black bins etc: left on highway too long after emptying.*

*Dog fouling, Bow Road.*

*The road that divides the village the type and speed of the traffic and the position of the crossing.*

*Parking - not enough for current number of houses with the help of school - will be even worse if they build more houses.*

*If there was more for the young then less behaviour problems. Old Road as a rat run could be improved.*

*Village crossing is not in the best place for traffic to see and to be seen by the current position.*

*Parking on double yellow lines in Moreleigh Road is dangerous.*

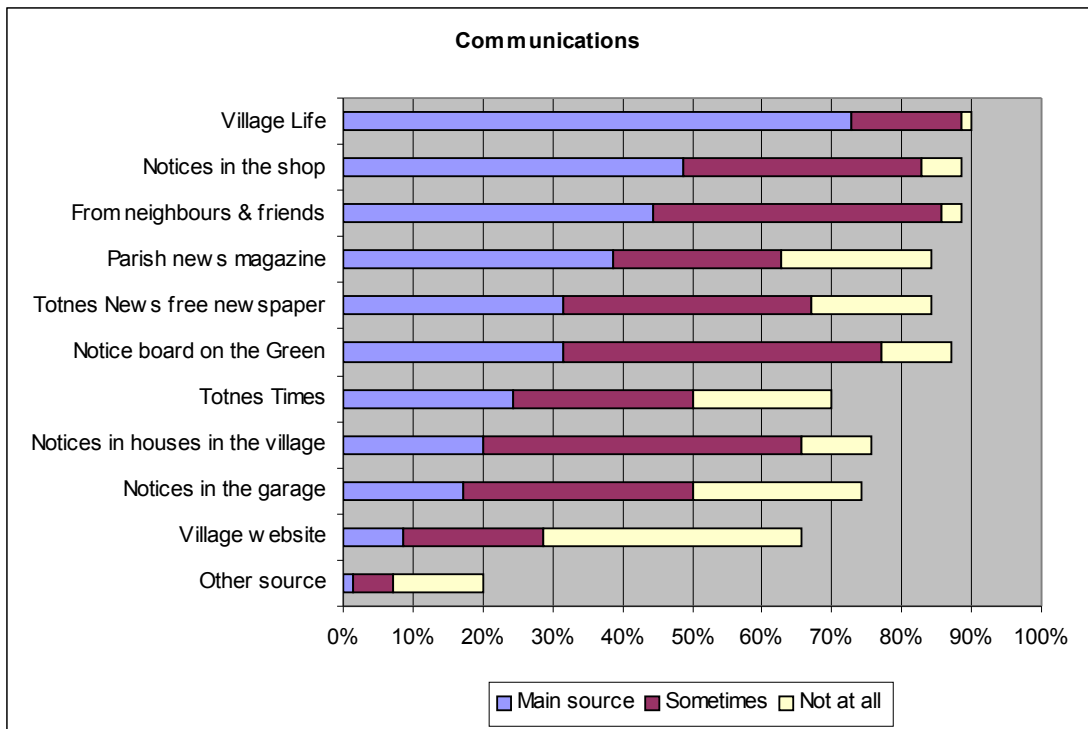
*Dog waste bins, required in areas that owners take their dogs. There are many dogs in the village apart from Rocky at the pub.*

*Parking in village often impeding large vehicles especially emergency services.*

*Bad and inconsiderate parking - children playing with traffic on main road dangerous.*

## **7 Communications**

The questionnaire included a section asking how respondents found out about activities and events in the village. Village Life was the most important source of information with three quarters of respondents citing it as their main source. The shop and friends and neighbours were also important sources, but the village website was only cited as a main source by 9% of respondents. The only other sources identified were the pub and notices on telegraph poles!



Suggestions for improvements included:

*Highlight a group each month in Village Life and give some background information or an explanation i.e. how the shuttle operates.*

*Posters on telegraph poles.*

*Occasionally there have been notices in the Parish News magazine (from our Parish Council) and NO WHERE ELSE! Do we have to be church goers or have to buy the magazine in order to be communicated to by our PC? Reading the PC minutes doesn't always give one much info.*

*Just found out about website so will check it out!*

*Communication is excellent.*

*If there were a decent pub, a wider x-section of people would use it and exchange information. The village website appears to receive minimal maintenance and little traffic.*

*Email newsletter or bulletin - maybe linked to website.*

*I think the set up is very strong as it is - amazing in fact.*

*The Village Life newsletter is vital !*

*Move the noticeboard on green to site where readers are not standing in the road.*

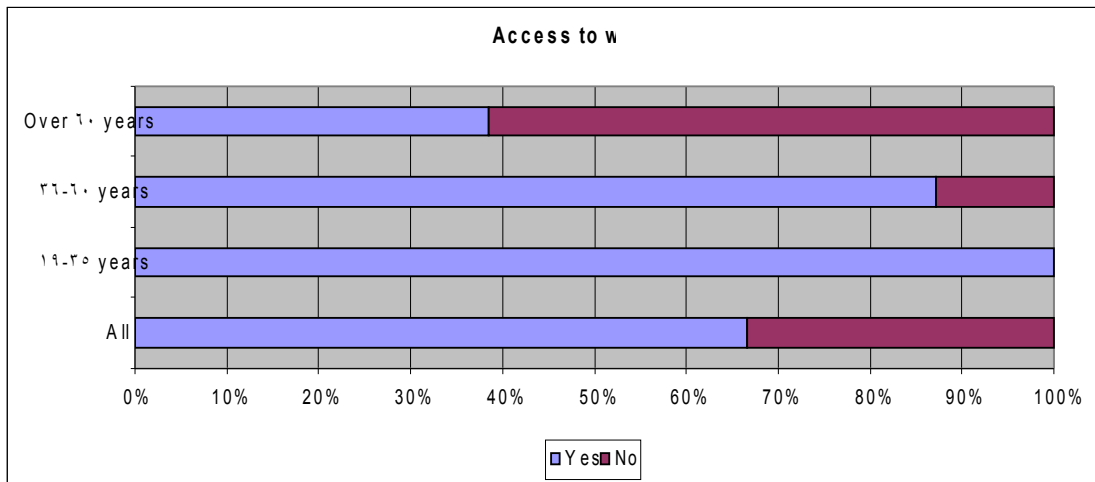
*An energy fair to generate income using the village hall and field. Better graphics and existing aesthetic visuals.*

*No I think you do an excellent job.*

*Village Life circular essential - very good - thanks to all involved.*

Respondents were also asked if they had access to the web. Overall two-thirds of respondents indicated that they did have access, but the results are heavily skewed by age group. Nearly everyone below 60 years of age had access, but two-thirds of those over 60 years old did not have access.





NB: Proportions of respondents answering question. 5 people did not respond.

In addition to specific comments, there were a number of general comments added at the end of the questionnaire. These included:

*In principle I would like to take part more often in village events, however, I often don't have the time to do so because of work/family commitments. I would like to say though that HSSG has done and is still doing a marvellous job!*

*Whilst I admit computers have their good points I am not really in favour of them because the problems they have caused such as paedophiles chatting up young girls on the "website" and things advertised on the website that have caused problems for the police etc. such as these "Raves" that attract young people and end up with them taking drugs and wrecking peoples houses. I might be a bit old fashioned but that is how I feel. Keep up the good work.*