



# **EAST STOUR VILLAGE PLAN 2012**



PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE PLAN COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 2012

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# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose of the Village Plan

The Village Plan process was initiated for the purpose of eliciting ideas and opinions about life in East Stour from as many villagers as possible. This document therefore summarises the ideas and opinions submitted by residents on the Village Plan Questionnaires.

## East Stour - location and amenities

East Stour village lies within the North Dorset administrative district of Dorset. The A30 London to Penzance road passes through the village which is situated half a mile from the east bank of the River Stour in the Blackmore Vale.

The parish church of Christ Church was rebuilt in 1841-42; it is one of eight churches in the Benefice of Stour Vale. The village hall was built in 1973 and has a large hall with stage, a smaller meeting room, bar room and recently refurbished kitchen. It is frequently hired for parties and special events as well as being used regularly by village organisations and others.

The village has several farms, two public houses, farm shop, garage and hairdressing salon. In addition, there are a number of villagers who work from home and the various trades and services they offer are included in the free business listing in the East Stour Village Newsletter. Outreach Post Office services are provided in the village hall for two hours once a week, with coffee available at the same time.

## Population

The 2001 census recorded 243 dwellings with a population of 548<sup>1</sup>. The 2011 census data for dwellings and population in East Stour had not been released at the time of compiling this document. The 2011 census shows an increase over ten years of 13.4 per cent in the number of households in North Dorset which rose from 25,300 in 2001 to 28,700 in 2011; this is reflected in the increased number of properties in East Stour by November 2011. The North Dorset Ward Profiles published in October 2011 shows the population of East Stour as 510<sup>2</sup>.

## Questionnaires

The purpose of the Questionnaires was to produce a Village Plan Document which reflected the opinions and ideas of the residents of East Stour. In November 2011 delivery of a Questionnaire was attempted to all 278 occupied properties in the village.

## Early outcomes

At the time of writing, the process of the Village Plan has already impacted on village life. More residents have become involved in village events, many of whom have offered help by volunteering for a number of activities, including preparation of the Village Plan. It is hoped that some of the ideas put forward will result in action by groups of like-minded residents willing to form committees and self-help groups and to undertake fund-raising as appropriate.

## Government changes to planning system

Since the East Stour Village Plan process began, the Government has made changes to the planning system. As a result, community planning has moved from the Town or Village Plan model to a Neighbourhood Plan footing and Village Plans will therefore have no statutory authority. The East Stour Village Plan Committee recommends that the East Stour Village Plan is incorporated into a Neighbourhood Plan by either The Stours Parish Council or included by North Dorset District Council when producing its new Local Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.dorsetforyou.com/323945](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/323945)

<sup>2</sup> [www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=169011&filetype=pdf](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=169011&filetype=pdf)

# VILLAGE HISTORY

With an area of 1,786 acres, East Stour lies on the east bank of the River Stour. One-third of the area is limestone and approx. two-thirds Kimmeridge Clay except for the extreme south-east corner near to Duncliffe Wood which is Greensand. The land undulates between 300 and 370 feet above sea level.

Over the centuries agriculture has provided employment for men, women, children and itinerant workers until the advent of tractors and mechanisation. To supplement meagre incomes women made gloves for Gillingham companies and Dorset buttons for suppliers in Shaftesbury.

## Historical References

**1085** - Domesday Book refers to East and West Stour as 'Stere' or 'Sture' and was taxed for 17 hides. With mills, pasture and meadow it was already an established village. Earlier during the reign of King Edward, the Abbey of Shaftesbury held the land

**1498** - Rebellion broke out and eight village men were said to have risen up against the sovereignty of Henry VII. Each was fined between £1 and £2<sup>3</sup>

**1695** - a map shows the village as Stower Estover

**1831** - village referred to as Stower East

## Roads

**1501** - Catherine of Aragon and her entourage travelled through en route from Plymouth to London for her marriage to Arthur, brother to the future Henry VIII

**August 1645** - Cromwell passed through and learned from his scouts that a group of local men were waiting to ambush him near Duncliffe Wood. After some negotiating the men dispersed before blood was shed

**1753** - a Turnpike Trust was set up for the road between Shaftesbury and Sherborne

**1831** - Royal Assent was given to convert the road from Sturminster Newton to Gillingham into a Turnpike Road. Tolls collected at White Post (Stour Provost) and Madjeston were used to maintain the roads. Prior to this, parishes were expected to maintain their section of road – this led to unrest as the villagers were poor, did not have transport to use on the road and could ill-afford to give their time

**1948** - Olympic Games Sailing Regatta held in Torbay. The Torch Relay used the A30 en route to Torquay and there was a changeover point near the Church

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<sup>3</sup> Wages = 1 penny and 2 pennies per day for labourers/harvesters. Source: [www.ehs.org.uk](http://www.ehs.org.uk)



Christ Church

### Religious Life and School

In the early 20th century, part of a Saxon cross was discovered when a village building was demolished, believed to date from the time of King Athelstan (924-980). The origins are unknown but believed to have come from the Saxon church; the significance and decoration of this stone was such that it is now housed in the British Museum.

The Saxon church was demolished because it became unsafe. Fire is thought to have been a cause but no records confirm this. Christ Church was dedicated in 1842. The £200 building costs were met by The Rev Henry Deane, Vicar of Gillingham. The building is in the Romansque style on a cruciform plan with a central tower. In 1851 Rev Deane bought land including the former Methodist Chapel (now The Red House) and Clay Hill Farm (now Hartgill Farm). He built Clay Hill House to live in.

Between 1834 and 1872 children were educated at a house on the north-west corner of the crossroads. Henry Deane's enthusiasm led to the building of a school (opposite Christ Church) in 1872 at a cost of £310. The school (below) was closed in 1948, became a furniture depository and then a dwelling.



The Village School

A Wesleyan Chapel was dedicated at Knap Corner in 1882 but closed in the 1990s and converted to a dwelling.

## Property Connections

- Henry Fielding was born in 1707 and spent part of his childhood in a house next to the Church (present site of Church Farm). In 1735 he returned here for a short time to begin married life. Fields around Highgrove Farm represent the early encroachment on the waste or common land. As recent as the 1980s one field on this farm was known as Common Ground and had a complete boundary fence with three lanes – Lintern Lane (now a made-up road), Common Lane and Cott Lane which are both still 'green' lanes
- Dairy House Farm has been a staging post in its time; teams of horses were stabled in the outbuildings
- The Crown Inn was a late 18th century range of three cottages and became an inn in the 19th century
- Highbridge Mill ground local-grown wheat into flour and barley for pig-feed until the beginning of the 20th century
- In the 19th and early 20th century a Wheelwright's Shop, stood on the south-east corner of the crossroads
- A Village Shop was opened during the First World War on the north-east corner of the crossroads. Later the shop moved to the north-west corner and closed in 2002
- The present East Stour Motors site was a builders yard until 1928. Timber was sawn by hand and the builder was responsible for erecting a large number of village properties, many of which still stand. A large number of tradesmen were employed and apprenticeships given to local lads
- A bakery was at Knap Corner until converted to a dwelling in the 1930s



Back Street 1931

- The blacksmith's forge was in Head Lane. The land on which Forge End now stands, was known as Vanners and several villagers had allotments on the site in the 1950s
- The Temperance Hall (opposite Manor Farm, now a private residence) was used as the 'parish hall' until the present Village Hall was opened in 1973

## Village Hall

In the late 1960's the Highways Authority were planning to widen the A30. The Temperance Hall was in a fairly poor state and would be demolished thus depriving the village of a community hall. In 1970 a plan to build a new Village Hall in the Recreation Ground was formulated. Funds were needed and the village rose to the occasion. Events including Fetes, Dances, whist drives, jumble sales, waste paper collecting were organised but 'The Coffee Stall' was the biggest and perhaps the most unusual fund-raising project.

Several men fitted out an old van (similar to an ice cream van) with cooker and worktops. Friday evenings during four summers saw the coffee stall towed to the entrance of Church Farm and teams of three or four served coffee, tea, hot dogs and rolls from early evening to 7 or 8am to the continuous stream of holiday-makers travelling to the south-west. Over £1,400 was raised in this way. 10,380 hot dogs were sold – rolls costing about 1p each.

The Village Hall opened in October 1973 with the aid of Donations/Grants from The East Stour Society, Parish Council, District Council, LEA and the Department of Education and Science. The Hall is a popular venue and used on a regular basis – all thanks to the tireless efforts of a band of enthusiastic volunteers in the 1970s and to the Management Committee of today. At a later date the Highway Authority upgraded the A303 instead of the A30!



The Village Hall Today

## Playing Field

The East Stour Parents' Group (ESPG) was formed in August 2003 in order to raise funds for playground equipment for the playing field adjoining the village hall. A total of £64,500 was raised comprising £10,000 Parish precept, £2,300 ND Crime Prevention, £2,000 NDDC, £200 ESGP and £50,000 from charitable organisations. The play equipment, which was installed in March 2005, is owned by East Stour parish which meets the cost of its ongoing maintenance. All invoices for monies spent were passed to the parish council enabling the VAT to be claimed back, so that the whole £64,500 could be spent on equipment.



The Children's Play Area and Playing Field

## Activities, Clubs and Organisations

At Christmas 1870 the East Stour Village Band walked the neighbouring villages playing carols and ending up at a pub!

The Stours United Football Club was active from 1899 until the mid 1940s. A Scout Troop, Sunday Schools, Mothers' Union and a Sports Club have all come and gone over the years.

The Stours Orchestra and a four-part village choir flourished in the 1930s. Both won cups in competition and performed concerts for village entertainment. The church choir took part in festivals at Crystal Palace and Albert Hall on several occasions.

### 100 Club and The East Stour Society (aka TESS)

Sometime in the 1960s (or possibly earlier) a group of villagers formed the East Stour Supporters' Club and 100 Club in order to provide all 'over 70s' with a Christmas Hamper or voucher to spend in the village shop. The 100 Club also funded annual trips for village children to a pantomime and the seaside, although as times changed both these and the hampers were discontinued.

The Supporters' Club was renamed The East Stour Society which continues today, with free automatic membership for every villager over 18 years old. All villagers are invited to buy annual 100 Club draw numbers at £5 per number per year, which currently raises approximately £1,000 per annum. Many villagers and their guests enjoy three free events each year which are organised by The East Stour Society, now informally known as 'TESS'.



## Early Photographs



Photographs taken around 1900 show the crossroads area being smaller, the roads were narrow and the buildings literally on each corner. Possibly the only properties still standing are Apple Tree Cottage and Kiosk Cottage. The remainder were demolished to widen the crossroads.

At that time, few houses stood on Back Street between Head Lane and The Red House. Early maps show Knap Corner as a village or hamlet in the same way as East Stour Common is today.



Back Street (date unknown)

## PLAN PROCESS

The suggestion of a Village Plan for East Stour was first put forward in 2010 by Hannah O'Sullivan, Chairman of the East Stour Parish Council. Subsequently the Stours Parish Council (of which East Stour is part) was approached for further information and guidance. Simon Thompson of Dorset Community Action (DCA) was invited to speak at an open village meeting on 1st March 2011, when he outlined the purpose and process of drawing up a Village Plan Document. A Village Plan Committee was formed, chaired by Laurence Payne and Bisi Adekunle of DCA undertook the role of adviser to the Committee.

The purpose of a Village Plan Document was discussed and a Project Plan drawn up. An initial budget of £2,000 was accepted by the Parish Council, funds to be provided from Precept<sup>4</sup>. Time spent by committee members and other volunteers has been provided free of charge.

Residents of East Stour were kept informed of progress as follows:

- February 2011 – notices distributed throughout the village to raise awareness of the project
- March 2011 – double-sided A5 flyer included in every copy of the village newsletter; first steps to consultation with the community were taken when a Village Plan Open Day was arranged
- April 2011 – the Open Day was advertised with posters around the village as well as notices distributed to every property in the village explaining the nature and purpose of a Village Plan as well as the topics likely to be considered at the Open Day. Two weeks prior to the Open Day a photographic display was mounted at the local farm shop.
- May 2011 – the Open Day took place at the village hall when information on a number of topics was displayed, with provision for ideas and comments from residents. In addition, there were stands from each of the village organisations with information from local businesses and tradespeople as well as a large display, with photographs, on the history of East Stour. Over 100 people attended and a number of villagers volunteered to help with the next stage of the project
- Jun-Aug 2011 – a Questionnaire based on the responses, ideas and suggestions at the Open Day was drawn up by the Committee. Particular emphasis was given to the issue of confidentiality except for the opportunity on the Questionnaire for participants to include their contact details only should they wish to do so
- Sep-Oct 2011 – the Questionnaire was 'test-run' by the volunteers who were to distribute them

EAST STOUR VILLAGE PLAN  
2011

QUESTIONNAIRE

The completed questionnaire will be collected on  
.....

Volunteer name .....

Volunteer telephone number .....

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<sup>4</sup> Precept: money collected from Council Tax payers in East Stour

- Nov 2011 – the Questionnaire was finalised and copies produced and distributed to all 276 occupied households in the village. Each distributor personally handed the Questionnaire to the resident where possible. Inevitably, some properties were empty, some residents chose not to return the form and a few properties had no access to a letterbox in the absence of the owners
- Nov-Dec 2011 – the Questionnaires were collected and counted, and contact details noted of respondents who had expressed an interest in volunteering for, or supporting, various village activities. With these details villagers could then be contacted individually with information on relevant events and projects which might arise from the Village Plan process. 202 completed forms and 20 blanks were collected
- Jan-Jul 2012 – committee members and volunteers input the Questionnaire responses to Survey Monkey<sup>5</sup> and the findings of each section were summarised. There had been 107 questions with 454 answer options plus 90 pages of narrative answers/comments to analyse – a mammoth task!
- Aug-Sep 2012 – a draft document, which included a summary of the survey results and an action plan, was developed from the total of 298 pages of the Survey Monkey printout
- October 2012 – the second Open Day was held at the Village Hall, with nearly 100 villagers inspecting the A3 displays in colour of the draft Village Plan document including the draft Action Plan. There were opportunities to register interest in various activities and proposals



Villagers inspecting the draft Plan at the second Open Day

- November 2012 – The Stours Parish Council passed a resolution to accept the Parish (Village) Plan and to endeavour to support as appropriate actions arising from that Plan. East Stour Parish approved an increase in the budget to £2,500 to accommodate printing the Plan document with colour. The Village Plan was, at last, ready to be printed then delivered to every household in the village!

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<sup>5</sup> Survey Monkey: an online software package designed to produce statistical information and analysis

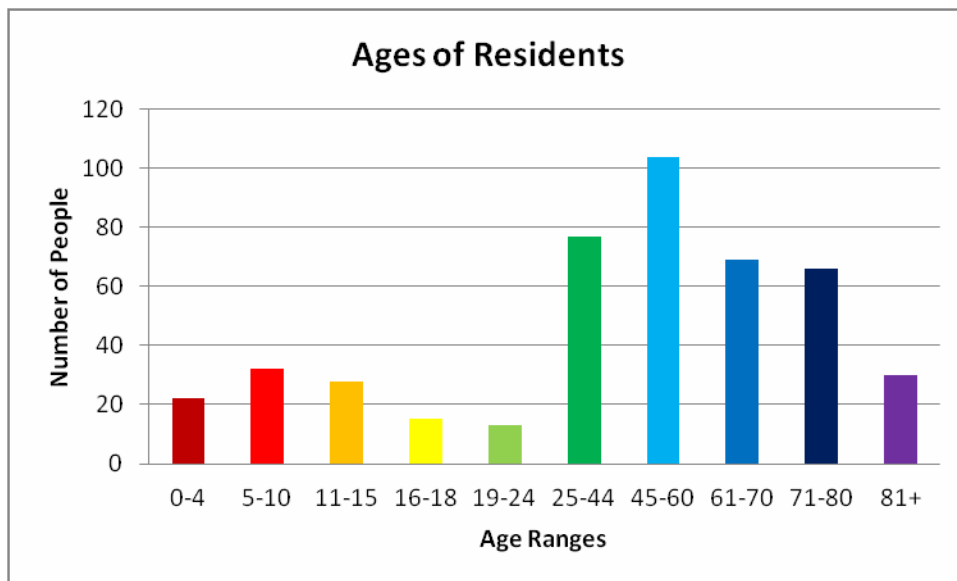
# SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

## INTRODUCTION

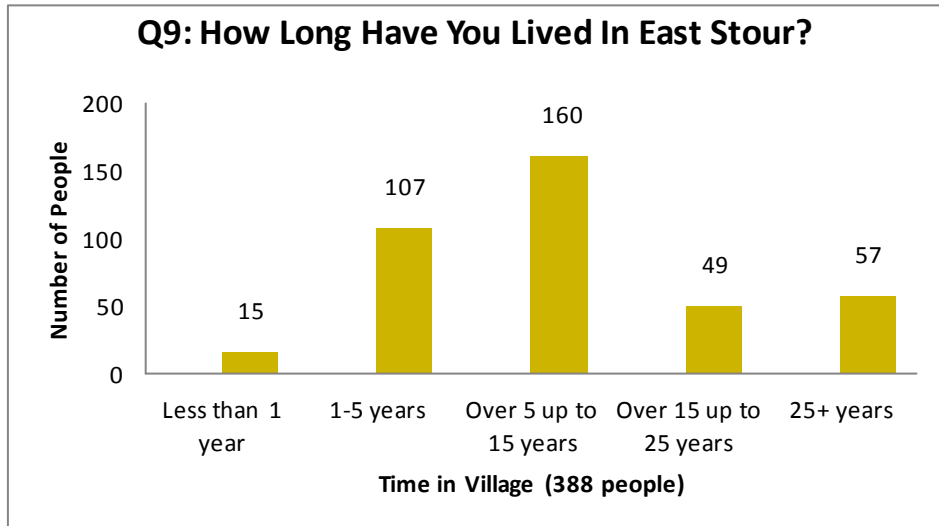
202 Questionnaires were completed in November 2011 and a further 20 were returned blank, out of 276 handed personally to each occupied household. 468 people recorded their views though many did not answer all questions.

## ABOUT THE HOUSEHOLD

- 21% of households are single people, 49% have two persons, 9% three, 10% four and 11% five or more



- In employment are 105 people, 79 are self employed, 22 unemployed, 130 retired, 14 semi retired, 64 are students (total 414 people)
- Owner occupied households 159, rented 51, provided with employment 5 (total 215)
- Children at local schools 62, other schools 16
- 267 have a computer with 250 using broadband for internet but only 143 satisfied with their broadband connection. Many are disappointed at the poor quality of broadband reception – it is slow or very slow and sometimes drops out, with 10 residents unable to receive broadband
- Radio and television reception is also poor for some (probably those without a satellite dish), with reports of no radio reception and/or television pictures breaking up. Some reported poorer reception since digital broadcasting came in 2011. The village is on the edge of broadcasting areas - there seems little radio or television coverage of North Dorset news

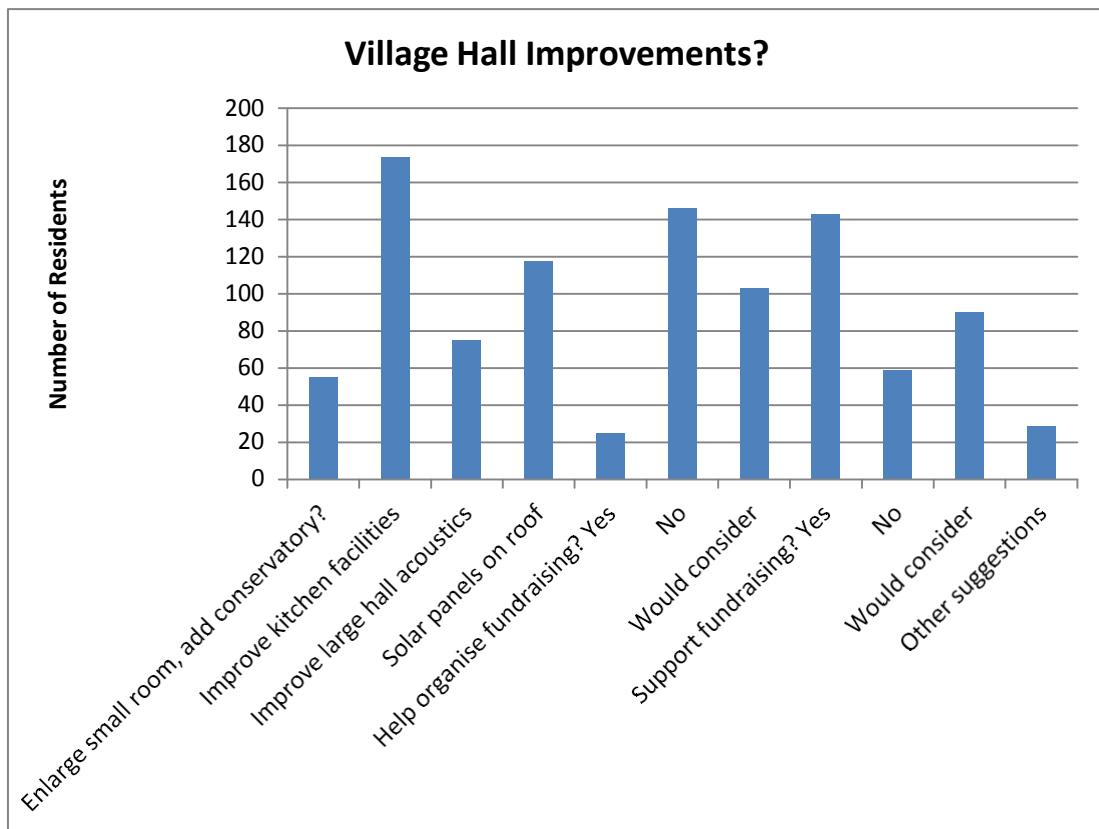


## LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

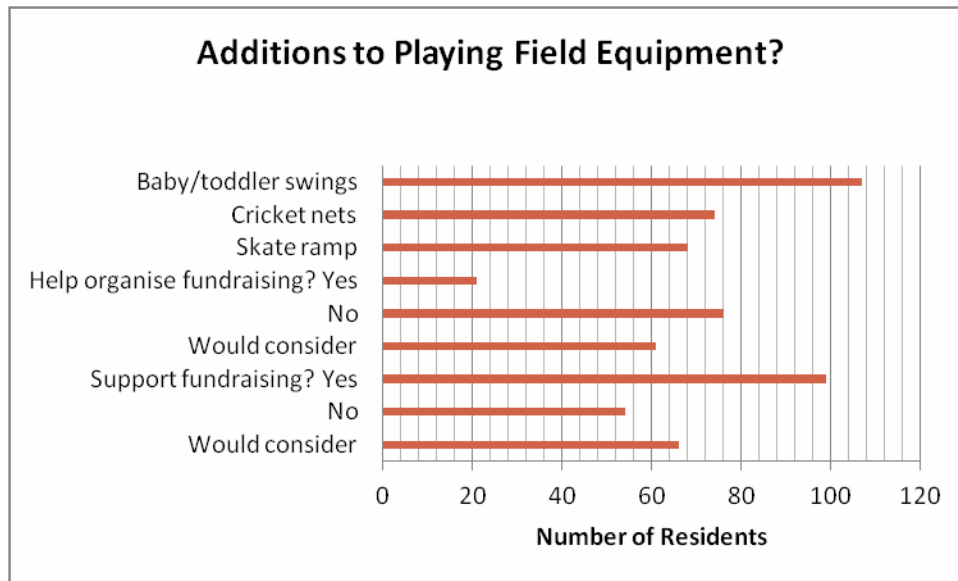
There are many events held in the village, mostly at the village hall. 207 attend at least a few times a year. The coffee morning on Wednesdays (while the Post Office is open) has proved to be popular as is the Saturday morning football for youngsters on the playing field

A village history project has been proposed and 103 people have expressed interest, with 83 offering to help

The village hall was built in 1973 and has been used by most residents



The playground equipment was erected in March 2005. Suggestions for additional equipment includes baby/toddler swings, cricket nets and a skate ramp and for extra rails/panels to prevent toddlers getting out into the car park. Again good support was expressed for fund raising



Nearly everyone is happy with the standard of maintenance of the playing field though more frequent grass cutting in the play area was requested and the holes in the ground need filling

There was good support for village walks if organised and for a youth club

164 residents value having the church in the village and 79 would be prepared to support its' upkeep

Several Homewatch/Neighbourhood Watch schemes exist, and there are many suggestions for more locations

Most people claim they do not know their Community Police/ Safer Neighbourhood team or how to contact them. Opinions are split as to whether the Police presence in village is about right or too low. The Police have not been seen in one or two outlying parts of the parish

Most residents feel allotments should be available as there is a small demand

A village website was suggested, which could include more details of the Village Plan

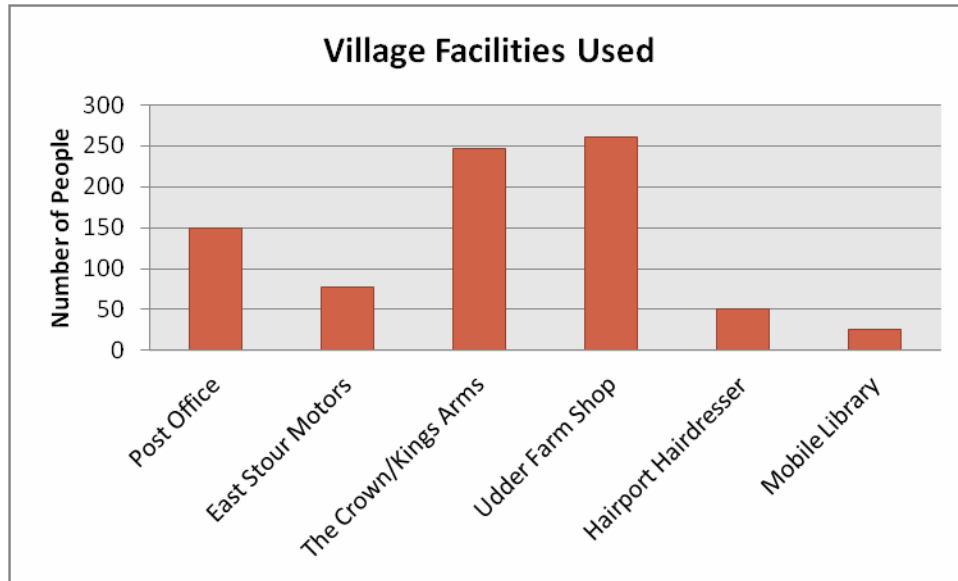
Just over 100 people perform voluntary work though most of the organisations are outside the village. 31 people entered their contact details to volunteer to help with village activities

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Overall medical services available to residents were felt to be satisfactory, with most (but not all) special needs being met. Several residents did not like the restricted availability of medical services outside “office” hours. More support services for older residents, perhaps via a volunteer network, would be appreciated

<b>Where Do You Travel To For A Doctor, Dentist, Optician, Hospital?</b> (Number of residents)				
	Doctor	Dentist	Optician	Hospital
Gillingham	207	198	161	
Shaftesbury	100	38	73	165
Yeovil			34	92
Salisbury			15	
Mere		18		
Wincanton		4		
Sherborne		7	3	
Sturminster Newton	5	10	4	
Stalbridge	11	4		
Tisbury		11		
Marnhull	25			
Blandford Forum				8
Dorchester				53
Salisbury				240

## ECONOMY OF THE VILLAGE

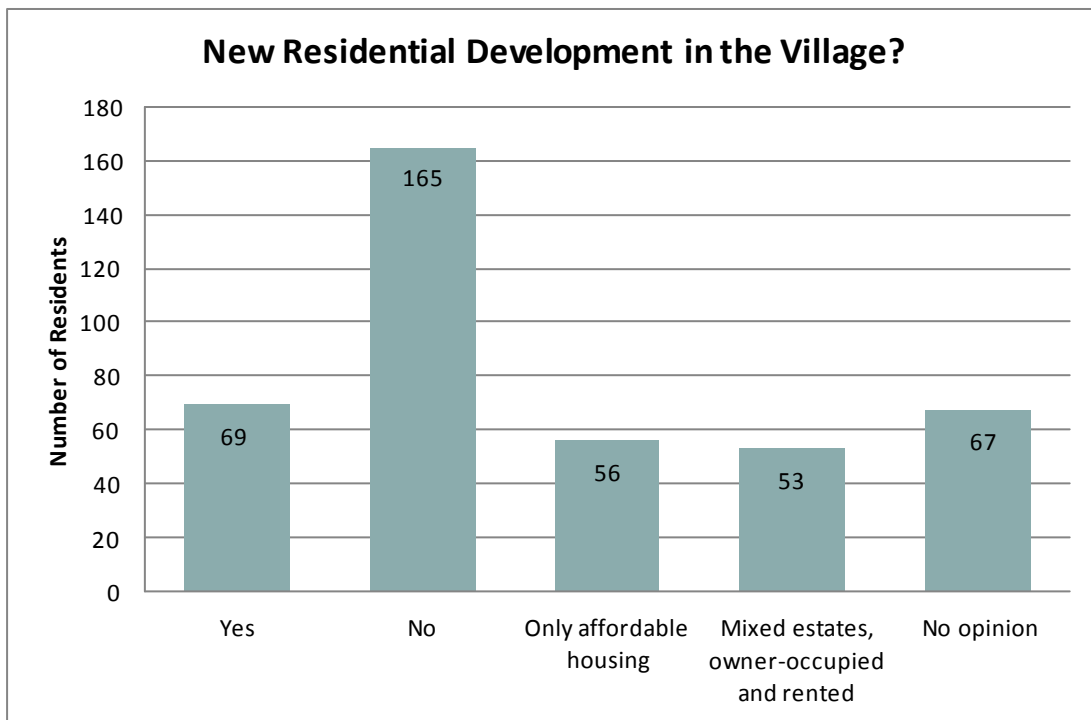


Half of respondents said a regular Post Office service was important, with a quarter of respondents using it frequently (at least once a month) even though it operates from the village hall for only two hours on Wednesday mornings

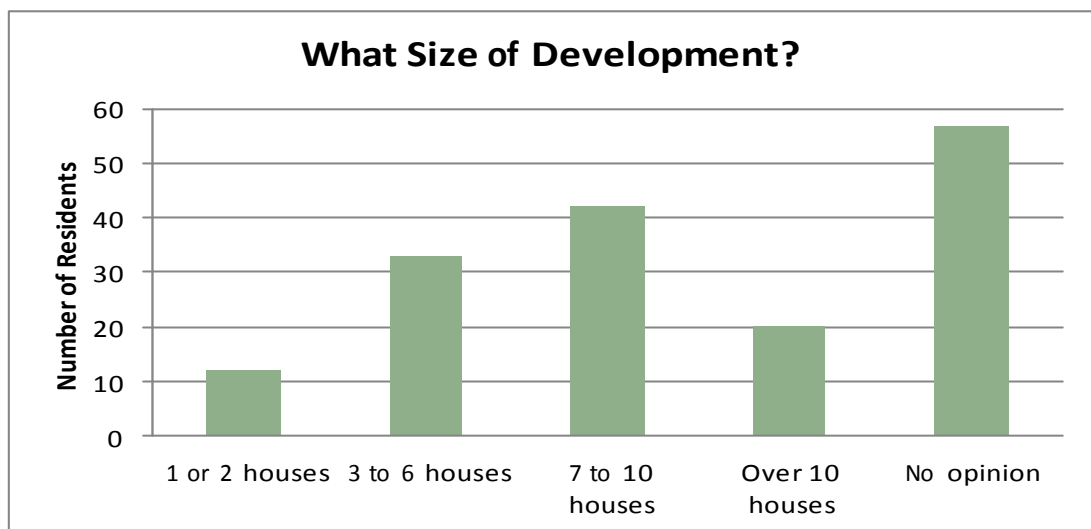




## HOUSING

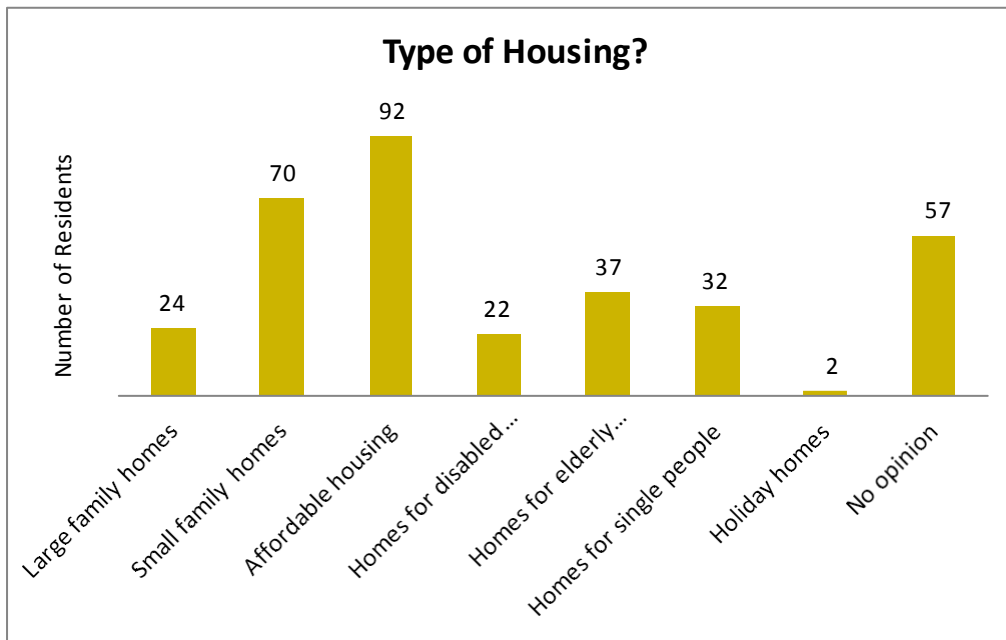


There is concern that lack of services, of public transport and even pavements should prevent any significant new housing



What sites are preferred? 18 chose Only in Large Gardens, 92 said New Sites in Village Boundaries, a further 92 had No Opinion

What type of housing? Large family homes had 24 votes, Small family homes 70, Affordable 92, For Disabled 22, For Elderly 37, For Single People 32, Holiday Homes 2, No opinion 57

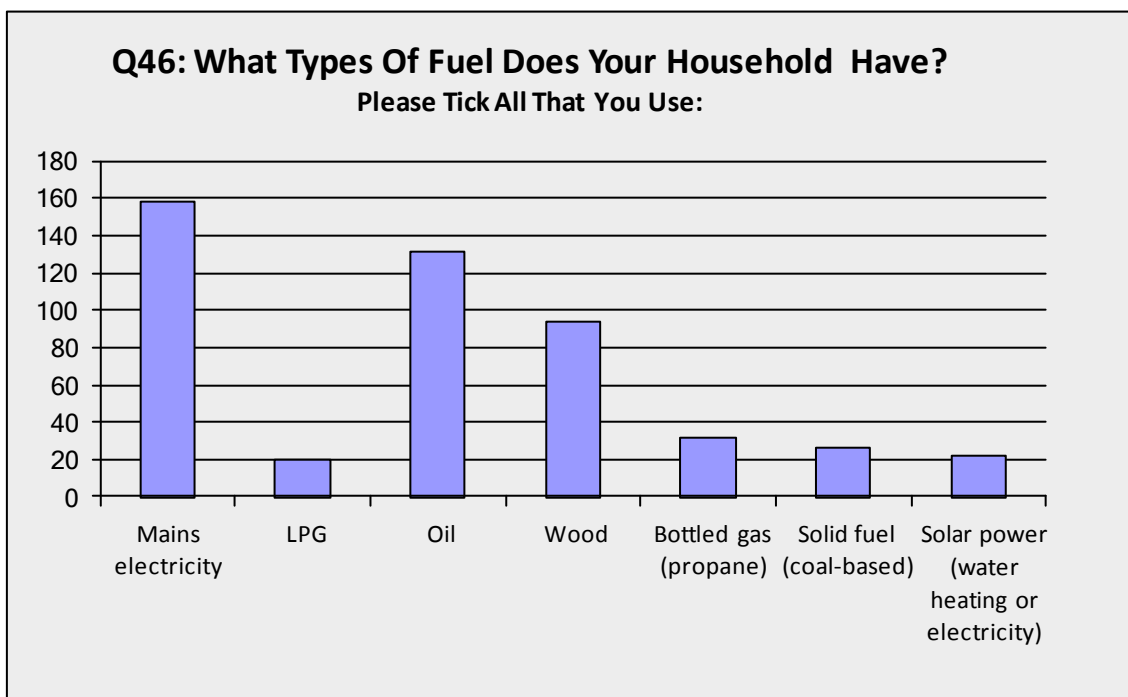


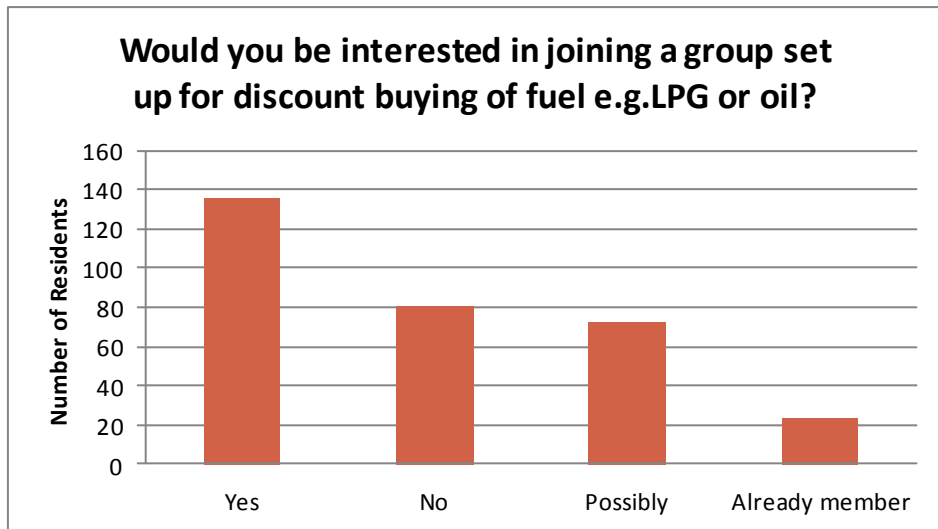
216 residents said new houses should be targeted at needs of local people, with 15 against and 57 expressing No Opinion

A small number (15) expect to need alternative accommodation in village in next few years, with 44 possibly needing it. They were narrowly in favour of buying, with slightly less demand anticipated for Affordable and also Rented housing.

## ENVIRONMENT

158 residents stated they used Electricity as their household fuel, followed by Oil 131, Wood 93, Propane Gas 31, solid (coal based) 26, LPG 19. Solar energy is created at 22 households. Half of respondents would like Mains Gas brought into the village





The support for renewable power projects in our area was mixed – 158 voting Yes but 105 saying No. If there were to be schemes, the support for Solar Farms was 114, Wind Farms 98 and Individual Wind Power Schemes 56

The question about whether Pollution is experienced brought many comments. The obnoxious farm smells cause many complaints, with the apparent worsening nature in recent years e.g. “Horrendous smells from local farm. We have lived in the country all our lives, but the last three years the smell is worse than ever”, “The overwhelming nauseating stench from a local farm which infiltrates into washing” and “The smell from spraying manure can linger for days causing headaches and nausea. The resulting outbreak of flies has affected our home and others”.

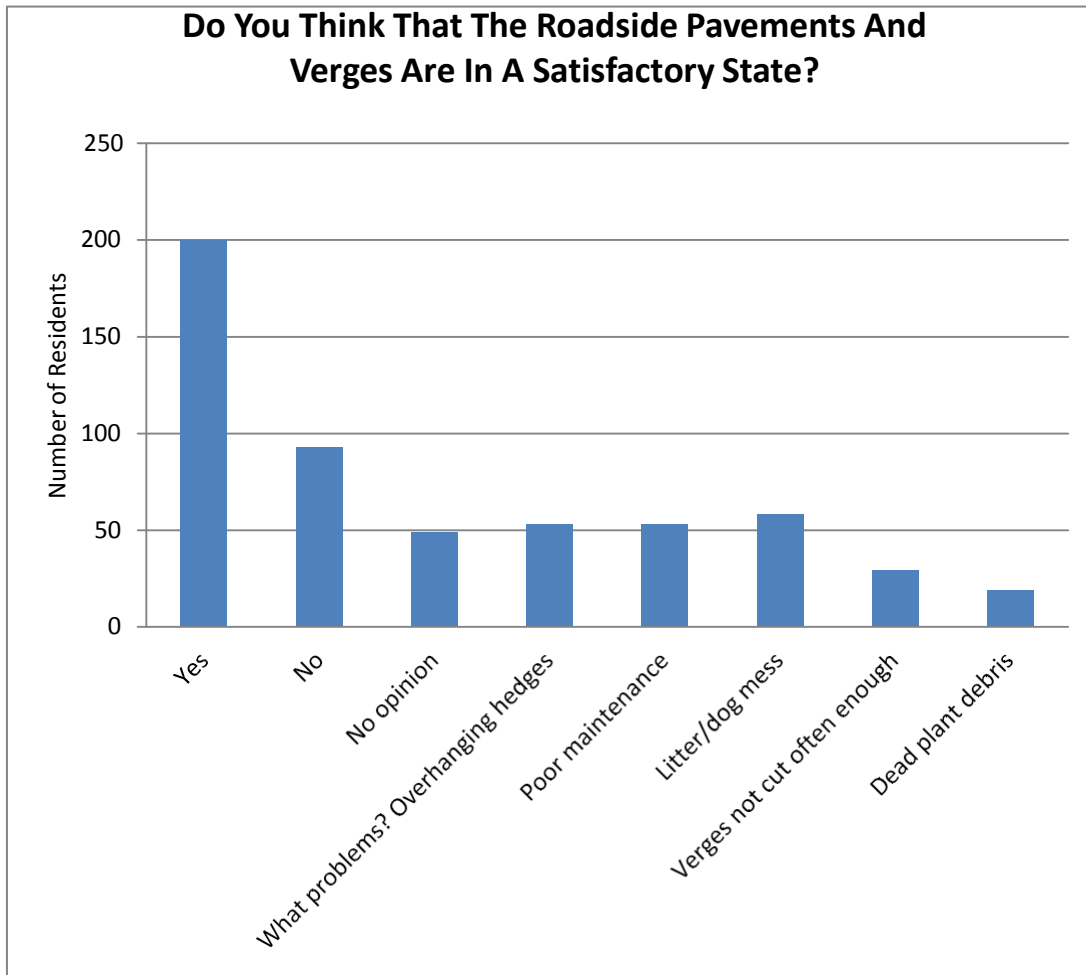
Many commented on traffic noise and exhaust pollution. 22 residents have been affected by flooding

Waste and Recycling arrangements are satisfactory but nevertheless there are many suggestions for improvements. Many would like to establish a recycling collection for drinks cartons, some hope for a weekly blue bin service, and several would like garden waste and glass bottles collected

The facilities at Shaftesbury Recycling Centre were generally adequate, though several people complained about the poor access via steep steps especially for those with mobility problems, queuing to get into a site that is too small. A recurring view is that Gillingham should also have a recycling centre

There was good support in favour of introducing occasional special collections of large items of waste such as unwanted furniture

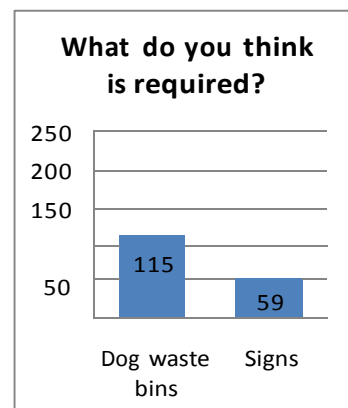
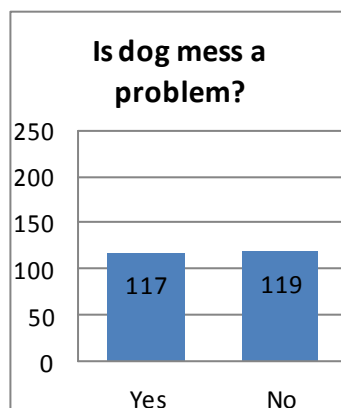
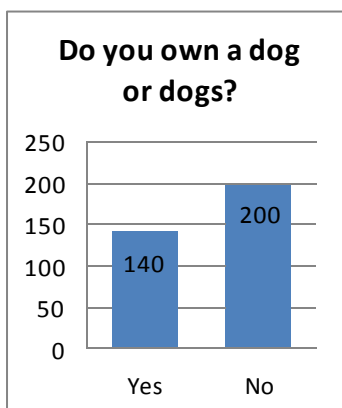
Several people reported problems with rats and mice



There was enthusiastic support for more planting of shrubs, bulbs and flowers – popular sites were at village entrances, the A30 crossroads and around the village hall – with perhaps a tree to commemorate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Year

Almost everyone wants more strict enforcement of the laws on dog fouling, littering and fly tipping. 58 people said there is a problem with litter in the village, although 212 thought not. The solutions suggested were for more litter bins to be available, and for bins to be emptied more frequently, for the recycling collectors to be more diligent, and for the general waste collectors to pick up obvious waste. A comment was made that litter is kept to a minimum due to the good work of a few villagers

There were interesting numbers about dogs and dog mess



## Comments on Dog Mess

- Education needed!!!!
- The tracks at Duncliffe Woods are a disgrace
- I don't think bins or signs would be effective against the very small minority of irresponsible dog owners
- Just a little more social responsibility - carry a bag, it's not difficult!
- Area affected by dog mess: Witch Lane only
- People need to stop dogs going on grass used by everybody
- Can't use Witch Lane or the footpaths except when under snow because of the dog mess
- People think because it's the countryside there's no need to pick up BUT you do
- I always carry poo bags just in case but some owners are letting their dogs poo on the pavements. This is a problem, especially at night when there is no street lighting to see where you are walking
- Shoot the dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs!
- No dog waste bins, Waste can go in litter bins under Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005. Maybe that needs to be well known
- Owners using local fields should clean up behind their dogs
- Witch Lane is a total dog lavatory!!!!
- Common sense! Can't walk in field at end of Sandilands without mess on the path somewhere. Why on the path - the field is huge!!
- On the pavement and grass verges - as I've never seen an unaccompanied dog along the roadside, dog walkers cannot be unaware of the fouling
- Encourage dog owners to carry with them equipment for collecting dog waste and to dispose of it properly - not push into someone else's hedge
- The problem with dog mess is generally on the pavements - those of small dogs!!
- A designated area with bins to walk dogs?

On whether a dog walking area should be provided, 125 said Yes and 142 said No. There was no common view where a dog walking area could be provided – but many comments that there would not be a need if owners acted responsibly

## TRANSPORT, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

The South West train services from Gillingham are well used, with nearly everyone travelling to the station by car. Most are satisfied with the parking arrangements

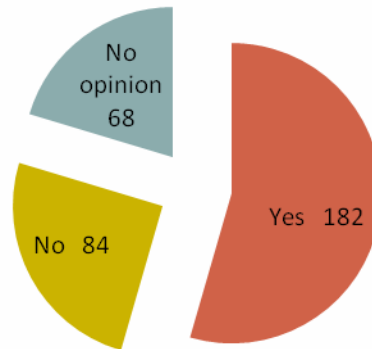
The local buses were used by 77 people last year. The popular destinations were: Shaftesbury/Gillingham/Sturminster Newton/ Blandford (used for 1618 journeys), Salisbury (52) and Dorchester (49). Over 200 people said they might use buses if there were more services, especially to Gillingham and Shaftesbury. Re-location of the bus shelter at The Fieldings was suggested as it is unsightly and never used. Shelters by East Stour Motors and near the village hall/Sandilands Close were proposed particularly as schoolchildren wait at these places

There are a number of road signs/markings listed as unreadable or in need of repair. Several signs get lost in foliage and overgrown hedges, have been damaged by hedge cutters, and some need cleaning; the 6' 6" restricted width sign in Head Lane is missing after being hit by a tractor

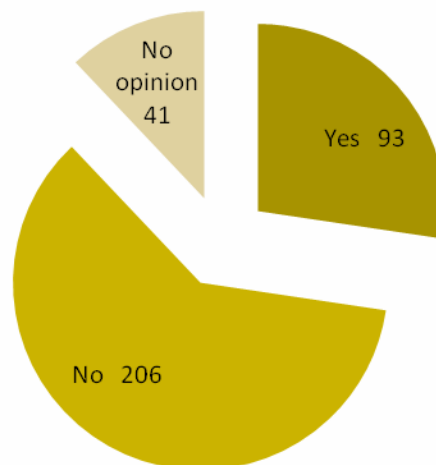
The placement of speed limits around the village attracted many comments. There was support to extend the 30 mph boundary further down Witch Lane (together with having Children Crossing signs on either side of this playing field entrance) and to have the 30 mph speed limits more strictly enforced on Hunger Hill past The Crown at Knap Corner and along Back Street, and on the A30. Many suggested that the 40 mph limit near The Udder Farm Shop should be moved out to nearer The Kings Arms, and that Browns Lane should be included in the 30 mph zone

Many residents complain of speeding vehicles on the A30 and Back Street, so there is solid support in favour of speed calming measures (such as pinch points on Back Street), speed indicator devices including average speed cameras, but not speed humps) while some comment that pinch points on Back Street would not work with so many heavy goods vehicles passing through

### In Favour of Speed Calming Measures? (number of residents)



### Are Speed Limits Enforced Enough? (number of residents)



There were conflicting views about additional street lights, either suggesting new locations or not wanting more as we are in the countryside not a town. Regarding the few lights we do have, most people who offered an opinion were happy with the current timings

Most residents think additional pavements should be provided, particularly around Knap Corner and up Hunger Hill, perhaps combining this with one way traffic lights on a single carriageway on the narrow bend outside The Crown. Several suggested a footpath (cheaper than a pavement) along the A30 to The Udder Farm Shop, and many wish for one to the garage in West Stour. Some would like a pedestrian crossing at the village hall entrance. Footpaths should be wide enough for cyclists to use

Many villagers use the local public footpaths and bridleways, and are generally happy that they clearly signed though some paths are signposted from the road but then do not continue to show the route. Some examples of poor signage and difficult access were noted, as are some stiles/gates/bridges needing repair. Not surprisingly, dog owners would prefer dog friendly stiles to be installed!

There was great support for publishing a village map of footpaths, bridleways and interesting features – though there are some maps on display in the village hall

## WHAT RESIDENTS LIKE ABOUT EAST STOUR

*(Note: these are points that were stated by several residents)*

- Sense of community spirit
- The peace and quiet, especially at night
- Rural setting, with views across green countryside
- Community spirit and friendly atmosphere
- Good neighbours and friendly residents
- Good links to neighbouring towns and amenities
- Fields with farm animals
- Being able to observe the changing seasons
- Very few street lights
- Village hall
- Playing field and children's play equipment
- Feels safe especially for children, seems to be crime-free
- Duncliffe Woods nearby
- Good local schools
- Udder Farm Shop
- Plant nursery
- TESS (The East Stour Society)
- Community activities

## WHAT RESIDENTS DISLIKE ABOUT EAST STOUR

- No local shop
- Lack of bus services
- Speeding traffic on Back Street and A30
- Heavy lorries
- Lack of linked footpaths, or footpaths to Udder Farm shop or garage/shop at West Stour
- Insufficient pavements
- Offensive farm smells
- Few facilities for children and none for teenagers
- Dog mess
- Lack of engagement/involvement of the Under 50s in village life



Knap Corner and The Crown Inn

# ACTION PLAN

These subjects requiring consideration were raised by several residents directly in the Village Plan Questionnaire, or arose in Comments invited throughout the Questionnaire.

Due to one resident's concerns re Data Protection Act and Human Rights, we have not compiled lists of residents who volunteered interest in and/or support for specific matters throughout the Questionnaire. The committee had intended to compile only non sensitive lists (such as who supported a Village History Project) but decided, to avoid any possible controversy, that input would be untraceable to any resident – even though many residents offered their names in support of individual matters. The only exception was to list those who completed the section (at the end of the questionnaire) inviting volunteers who might generally support village activities. Hence, **to enable the many constructive suggestions on individual matters to be followed up, we ask for volunteers and supporters to contact the Leaders shown - or anyone else appropriate!** The proposed village website will also provide a means of communication.

David Little (email preferred: d.little280@gmail.com, or tel 01747 839882) has volunteered to be **Village Plan Coordinator** in order to facilitate the setting up of the various groups and interests shown below. He will be joining the Parish Council to report progress on the Action Plan.

Each Leader below needs to hear from **YOU** on the subjects you support!!

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>LEADER</i>
<b>LIFE IN THE VILLAGE</b>	Will villagers wishing to support any Action <b>please contact the Leader</b>	
Volunteers for Village Activities	Compile list of villagers who gave their interests/contact details in Questionnaire	Maria Windross, 838324 mariawindross264@btinternet.com
Village History Project	Those interested contact Leader	VP Coordinator (initially)
Village Hall and Playing Field	Improve Hall and car park rails; Additions to equipment; more Frequent grass cutting; fill holes	Tony Jones, 838243 d.jones1234jones@btinternet.com
Village Walks	Those interested contact Leader	Stephen Nutt, 07973 164386 sjnutt@btinternet.com
After School Club, Youth Club	Those wanting scheme to contact Leader	VP Coordinator (initially)
Church Maintenance	Volunteers needed contact Leader	Maria Windross, 838324 mariawindross264@btinternet.com
Home Watch Scheme	Villagers wanting scheme – contact Leader	Hannah O'Sullivan, 838725 hmos@uwclub.net
Police and Safer Neighbourhood	Advise Questionnaire findings on community policing	Hannah O'Sullivan, 838725 hmos@uwclub.net
Allotments	Those wanting an allotment to contact Leader, who will notify Parish Council	Stephen Nutt, 07973 164386 sjnutt@btinternet.com



<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>LEADER</i>
<b>LIFE IN THE VILLAGE (cont)</b>	Will villagers wishing to support any Action please contact the Leader	
Village Website and Facebook	Potential contributors and those interested to contact Leader(s)	Website – Natalie Gilding, 838271 nataliegilding@hotmail.co.uk Facebook – Guy Gilding, 838271 guygilding@hotmail.com
TV, radio and broadband reception unsatisfactory at some locations	Those interested and wanting to investigate - contact Leader	VP Coordinator (initially)
Village Shop	Show your support for the feasibility investigation - contact Leader	Julia Gould, 838788 hotchpotchjulia@btinternet.com
(plus) Consider delivery service from an existing shop		Terry Bagnall, 838335 terry.bagnall@me.com
<b>VILLAGE ECONOMY</b>		
Develop employment in village	Village Open Day to promote the 40 businesses and services in the village, plus activities for children	Daphne Jones, 838243 d.jones1234jones@btinternet.com
<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING</b>		
More Support and Services for older people	Those interested (eg in an Afternoon Club) to contact Leader who will coordinate findings with existing support services	David Purcell, 838966 david.purcell1@virgin.net
Yoga classes for older people	Those interested contact Leader	Natalie Gilding, 838271 nataliegilding@hotmail.co.uk
<b>HOUSING</b>		
Views on Future Development	Submit collected views from Questionnaire to Parish Council	VP Coordinator
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>		
Mains Gas	Considered not feasible	None
Fuel Buying Groups	Set up groups to obtain discounted Electricity, propane gas/LPG prices	VP Coordinator (initially)
Farm Smells	Discuss Questionnaire responses with relevant farmers/Parish Council	VP Coordinator (initially)
Flooding	Anyone affected to report locations and details to Leader, who will approach Parish Council to lobby appropriate authorities	Maurice Rymill, 838003 m.rymill21@gmail.com

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>LEADER</i>
<b>ENVIRONMENT (Cont)</b>	Will villagers wishing to support any Action please contact the Leader	
Waste and Recycling	Extend kerbside collection to include glass, drinks cartons; provide Recycling Centre at Gillingham. Await service changes by Dorset Waste partnership (DWP) in 2013	None
	Periodic collections of large household items. No action as NDCC service exists – most items collected for £11 each	None
Swap Shop/Recycling Days	An opportunity to give away/swap unwanted items, extra produce etc.	Guy Gilding, 838271 guygilding@hotmail.com
Dog Fouling	Villagers to report problem areas to Leader; approach NDCC and/or Police – seek better enforcement of law; more dog waste bins and signs	VP Coordinator (initially)
Dog Walking Area(s)	Find suitable location(s)	VP Coordinator (initially)
Littering/Fly Tipping	Self help rules! Villagers to pick up litter, or identify and report problems and locations to NDDC, 01258 454111	None
Vermin Problems	Identify and report problems and locations to NDDC, 01258 454111	None
Roadside Verge Maintenance	Identify and report problems and locations to NDDC, 01258 454111	None
Trees, Plants and Bulbs	Planting ideas to enhance village plus suggested funding and offers of help – to Leaders	John Gould 838788 hotchpotchjulia@btinternet.com Penny Brentnall, 838028 penelopeab@gmail.com
Benches/Seats	Provide more? Ideas and suggested funding to Leader	John Gould 838788 hotchpotchjulia@btinternet.com
<b>TRANSPORT, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS</b>		
Parking at Gillingham Station	Identify deficiencies to Leader; ask Parish Council to discuss with South West Trains/NDDC	VP Coordinator (initially)

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>LEADER</i>
<b>TRANSPORT, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS (Cont)</b>	Will villagers wishing to support any Action <b>please contact the Leader</b>	
Car Schemes	Community Transport Scheme – Contact Age UK, 01747 853966	Ring direct
	Voluntary Car Scheme – Mrs Cattley, 01258 473439 Post on Village website	Ring direct Website builder
Bus Services	More services? Not feasible  Publicise availability – timetables already on some bus stops/ see dorsetforyou.com /post on village website	None  Website builder
	Provide/relocate shelters – Insufficient demand	None
Road Signs and Markings	Villagers to report specific deficiencies for Parish Council to raise with NDDC/DCC	VP Coordinator (initially)
Speed Limit Boundaries	Is there enough support to raise this with Parish Council, NDDC/DCC?	VP Coordinator (initially)
Children Crossing Signs	Is there a demand for erecting signs on Witch Lane adjacent to playing field entrance?	Natalie Gilding, 838271 nataliegilding@hotmail.co.uk
Speeding Traffic on Back Street and A30	Is there enough demand to seek better enforcement of speed limits, traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossing outside village hall, traffic lights on a single lane at Knap Corner?	John Gould, 838788 hotchpotchjulia@btinternet.com
Extend Village Pavements	Is there enough demand to form a working group to develop discussions with Parish Council, NDDC, DCC?	VP Coordinator (initially)
Footpaths – Signage, Maintenance, Repairs to Structures, Dog Friendly Stiles, Route Changes	Villagers must report requirements, with a view to creating an action plan for improvements	Martin Hibbert, The Stours Footpaths Officer, 838272 stours.footpaths@gmail.com
Map of Village Footpaths, Bridleways, Local History and Interesting Features	Form working group to gather information and publish (including on Village website). Some existing maps are in Village Hall	Martin Hibbert, The Stours Footpaths Officer, 838272 stours.footpaths@gmail.com

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful thanks are due to everyone who helped in this project, in particular:

All the village organisations and the many volunteers who

- delivered and collected Questionnaires from every property within the village boundaries
- delivered flyers
- contributed to the two Open Days – the first to introduce to villagers the concept of the Plan and the second to publish the Draft Plan
- assisted with data input to the Survey Monkey online survey program
- delivered the published Village Plan 2012 document to every household

Rod and Mary Dowding who provide the history display and, with the help from other villagers, produced the History of East Stour section for this document

Bisi Adekunle from Dorset Community Action Group for advice and support

The East Stour and The Stours Parish Councils for their financial support and ongoing encouragement

TESS (The East Stour Society) for providing evening catering at the Open Day in October 2011

The members of the Village Plan Committee for many hours of selfless devotion!

Ann Morpew, Chairman

Chris Williams

David Little

Joan Archer

Margaret Rymill

Maurice Rymill, Secretary

Walter Webb (joined June 2012)

and

Diana West (until September 2012)

Laurence Payne (until August 2011; Chairman until May 2011)

Maria Windross (until June 2012)



Winter Sunset at East Stour

## USEFUL CONTACTS at November 2012

**East Stour Parish Councillors** - Hannah O'Sullivan, Chair, 838725; Bobbie Edwards, 838549; Tony Jones, Playing Field Officer, 838243; Laurence Payne, 838298; Margaret Rymill, 838003; Maurice Rymill, 838003; Parish Clerk - Michelle Cox, email: stours@dorsetparishes.gov.uk

**Village Hall Management Committee** – Oliver Salisbury, Chairman, 839728, Pauline Robinson, Secretary. Committee members: Joan Archer, Pam Isaacs, Rodney Dowding, Michael Pike, Michael Robinson. The following organisations provide a representative member: Garden Club, Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, TESS, Women's Institute and The Brownies

**Village Hall Bookings** – Pat Robinson, 838229

**Village Hall Trustees** - Mary Dowding, Nick Perrin, Oliver Salisbury, Maria Windross

**The East Stour Society (TESS)** - Alison Haddon, Vice Chairman, 838330, email: alisonhaddon@aol.com

**Christ Church**, Vicar - Rev Andrea Hagenbuch, 838494, email: vicar@stourvalechurches.org

**East Stour Ladies Lunch Club** – Second Tuesday each month - Joan Archer, 838507

**East Stour Village Newsletter** – produced by East and West Stour WI and delivered free of charge in March, July and November. Enquiries: Ann Morpew, 838472; email: ann.oakdene@yahoo.co.uk

### Schools

**Stower Provost Community School** - Mrs Julie Sanderson, Head Teacher, 838370

**Stower Vale Pre-School, and Baby and Toddler Group** - 839942

**Gillingham School** - 822222

### Regular activities at Village Hall

**Badminton** – Wednesday, 7.30-9.00pm - Rod Dowding, 838351

– Thursday, 2.30-4.00pm Spring and Autumn - Sheila Fricker, 840788

**Bridge Club** – Tuesday 1.45-5.30pm - Mary Alexander, 01258 472710

**Brownie Pack** – Pauline Robinson, 838229

**First Class Coffee** – every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00noon, to coincide with Post Office opening time - David Morpew, 838472

**Federation of Post Office and BT Pensioners** – Third Wednesday of every month, 2.00- 4.00pm - Dorothy Martin, 861880

### Fitness Classes

**Jazzercise** – Monday and Thursday, 10-11am, with crèche; Wednesday 6-7pm - Charity 850031

**Smooth Movers!** – Tuesday, 10.30am-11.30am followed by coffee and chat - Lyndy Syms 850461

**Garden Club** – Duncliffe Garden Club, Last Wednesday of every month, 2.30pm - Helen Burt, 823909

**Stamp Club** – Second Tuesday of the month from Sep 2012 to May 2013, inclusive – Jeremy, 828246

**Whist Drive** – Second Tuesday of every month, 7.30-9.30pm - Pat Robinson, 838229

**Women's Institute** – Third Tuesday of every month except August, 7.30pm - Hilary Pendleton, 839963 or Pat Robinson, 838229

### Playing Field

**Fast Feet Football for children** – Saturday morning, 10.00am-11.00am, followed by refreshments. Also Wednesdays in school holidays (as advertised) - Neil Coates, 07971 958486

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Post Office services in the Village Hall** – Wednesday from 10.00am until noon

**Post Box collections** – from village postboxes: 4pm Mon-Fri, 10.00am Sat

– from Station Road, Gillingham: 6pm Mon-Fri, noon Sat

**Dorset District Council** - 01258 454111; website [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)

### Refuse collection and mobile library days

**Brown Bin:** Thursday, weekly. **Blue Bin:** Monday, fortnightly. **Green Box:** Thursday fortnightly, currently same week as mobile library (see East Stour Village Newsletter for fortnightly dates)

**Mobile Library** – Thursday, fortnightly – 10 and 24 Dec, 14 and 28 Jan 2013 etc: The library makes four stops in our area: **East Stour Common**, Tree Tops 11:20-11.35am. **East Stour**, at the bus stop opposite the Village Hall 11.45 to 12.05pm). **West Stour**, at the Ship Inn 12.10-12.30pm and at **Stour Hill Park** 12.35-12.50pm

## **OTHER LOCAL SERVICES**

**Community Officer for Safer Neighbourhood Team** – Maureen Hayward or Chris Mullins, 01202 229131 or 07825 521870; email: [gillinghamruralsnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gillinghamruralsnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

**POPP (Partnership for Older People Project)** – Community Leader: Diana West, 07825 264345; POPP Champion – Steve Beveridge, 07825 206061; POPP Wayfinder – Michael Irvine, 07971 338455

**Local Bus Services** – Damory Coaches, 01258 452545; Shaftesbury & District 01747 854359

## **VILLAGE BUSINESSES** (updated in each edition of the East Stour Village Newsletter)

*Alison Highnam, shrub cutting advice, 838133*

*Anji Hall, bags, shawls, scarves, gifts, 838111*

*Aysgarth B & B, Mary Dowding, 838351*

*Beauty Therapist, Elizabeth Gilding, mobile service or visit me in Back Street, 07928 292504*

*Beauty Therapist, Nicky Collins, treatment room in village, 07731 403777*

*Biddiscombe & Son, Plumbing & heating, 839727, 07722 373193*

*Cakes for all occasions by Sweet Cakes, Marie Crossman, 838389*

*Carl 'The Common' Electrician, 838491*

*Cascade Nurseries, Browns Lane, Richard and Trudy Bedward, 838027*

*The Crown Inn, Knap Corner, Sam Holmes, 838866*

*Dog walking and Horse sitting services, Karen Wonnacott, 838591 or 07961 761002*

*Dorset Cottage Gifts, Kate Matthews, 07547 141892, [dorsetcottagegifts.co.uk](http://dorsetcottagegifts.co.uk)*

*East Stour Hairport, 838060*

*East Stour Motors, 838745*

*Gable Cottage B&B, The Common, 838491 and 07768 212040*

*Garden Design by Karen Tester, 838358, [karentestergardendesign.co.uk](http://karentestergardendesign.co.uk)*

*Gladys the Wedding Car, 1961 convertible Morris Minor for hire, 838271*

*The Glen B & B, David Willoughby, 839819*

*Herbal Healing, Julie Wood, 839848*

*IT System Design, Microsoft, Excel and Access, HeartRace Ltd, 838047*

*JC Joinery, Jamie Curtis, skilled local craftsman, 838107*

*The Kings Arms, Ross Campbell, 838325*

*Lady Gardener, garden maintenance, design & development, Linda, 825477*

*Liz Robertson Artwork Services, 838796*

*May Creation, Design Consultants, Diane May, 825551*

*Melvyn Ward Roofer, free estimates, 838915 or 07944 678522*

*Metal Detectorists, John and Verena Harper, 838650*

*Milk deliveries, Newhouse Farm Dairy, 822700*

*Mobile Hairdresser, Ann Kent, 838646 or 07528 051282*

*Mr Bean Coffee, available for hire or to call on your local business, 838271*

*Newspaper Deliveries, Eve's News Agency, 825254; Little Buddha, 822753*

*Nick Robertson, Painter and decorator, 838796*

*Post Office, Gillingham, 822626*

*Property and Garden Maintenance, Trevor Squire, 838488*

*Richard Jones, Stonemason, 838784*

*S A Bendoraitis, Building Contractor, 838388*

*South West Services, house maintenance, John Griffiths, 07969 964598*

*Tania Ballett, Photography, 838613 or 07960 722307*

*Taxis – local and distance, Wedding Service, Joe's Black Cabs - Tania Ballett, 07554 054037*

*The Udder Farm Shop, Jane Down, 838899*

*Wessex Marquees, Nigel Ferguson, 812709*

*You Grow It, We Mow It, garden maintenance, Rich, 07856 288403*