

BODENHAM PARISH

PLAN

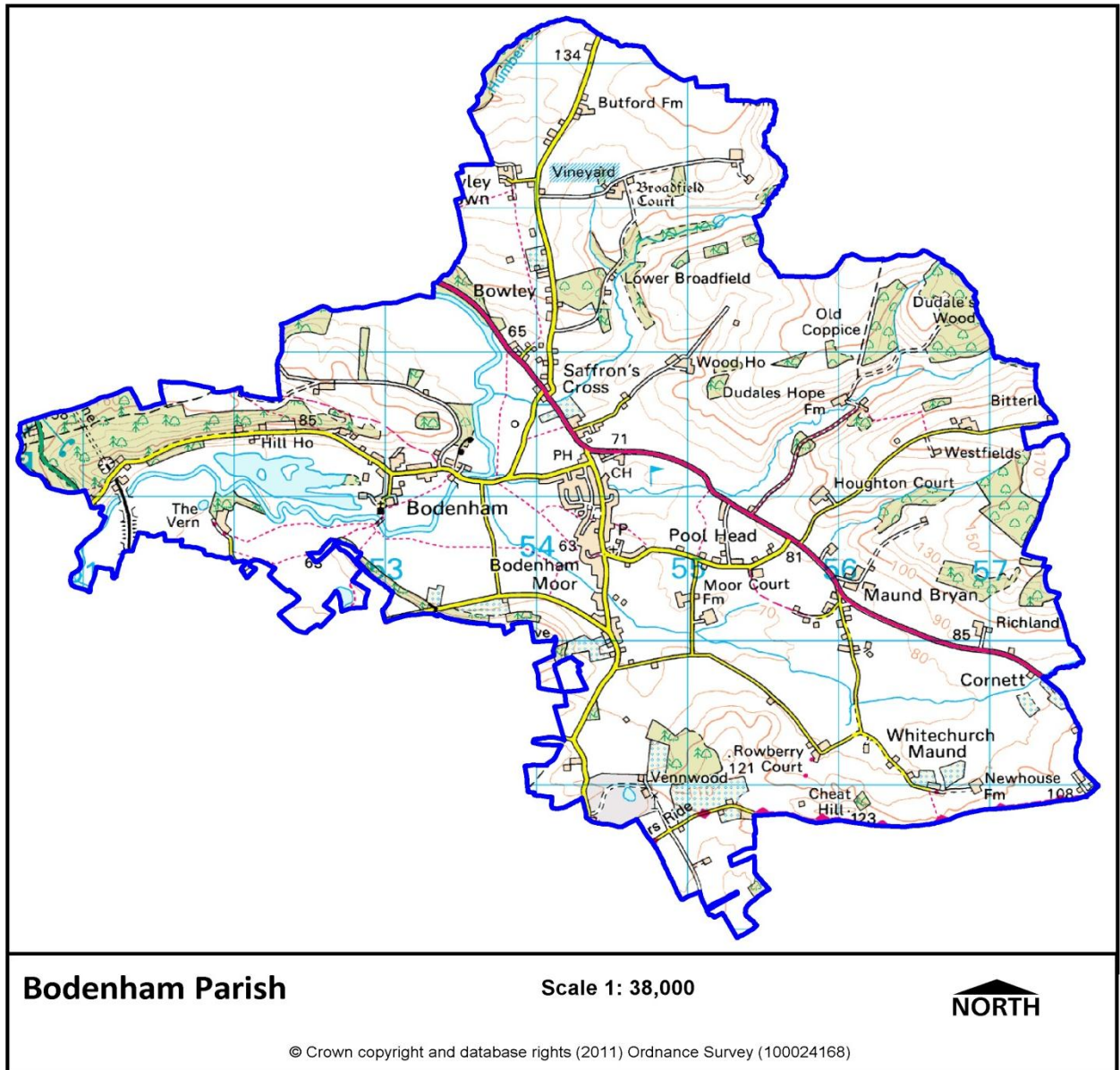


INTRODUCTION

Background

Bodenham is a mainly rural parish of some 2,139 hectares (5,286 acres) centred about 7 miles North of Hereford and 6 miles South of Leominster.

The River Lugg flows from North to South through the Parish on its way to the Wye and the two main centres of population in the Parish lie on either side of it. To the West is the original village of Bodenham, which is a conservation area and contains the church and primary school, while to the East is the rather larger and more recent residential area of Bodenham Moor with the Chapel, Parish Hall, Post Office, GP Surgery and a number of local businesses and other amenities.



History

Sheltered by the picturesquely wooded Dinmore Hill, Bodenham lies at a point where the Lugg Valley expands into a level plain. Very little is known about early human activity here,

but the early Neolithic ridge-end enclosure at Hill Croft Field has been dated to around 3,500BC and described as "Herefordshire's earliest dated monument". Direct evidence of Roman activity is limited to a single coin and the discovery in 2004 of a very rare type of Roman sword, while the pre-Conquest legacy is most evident in the Parish's name which is variously interpreted as meaning 'Boda's land in the river bend' or possibly Boden, meaning a group of homes in the river bend.

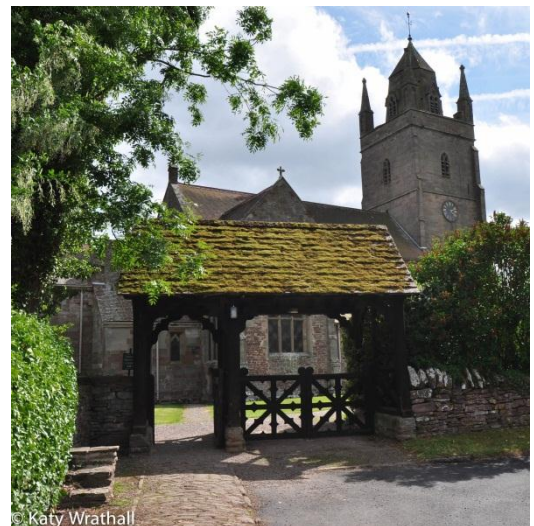
The first written reference to Bodenham occurs in the Domesday Book of 1086 when its population was probably around 400 souls. Most



of the places that make up the modern Parish are readily identifiable, the manors all being held by great Norman lords. For example, Broadfield belonged to one, Hugh, who styled himself "de Bradfields". Confiscated by Henry III from William de Bradfelde in 1266, the estate was in crown hands until 1272 when John de Broadfield assumed ownership. The manor house is Bodenham's oldest building and successive owners have added to the fabric, while the house's six south facing gables date from the 14th, 15th and 19th centuries.

Long ago the River Lugg was navigable and barges brought grain to a mill upstream of the present Bodenham Bridge (built in 1816). Near the bridge was a warehouse (corrupted to today's "Weir House") and loading jetty. Oak bark, used in leather tanning, was one of the cargoes. The stone with which the Church of St Michael and All Angels was built was very probably brought in by boat, which may account for the Church's close proximity to the river.

The Church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, although the present building dates to *circa* 1200 and has undergone many alterations from the 14th century onwards. In particular, the Arkwright family were responsible for restoring the Church in 1889. However, the money ran out before the spire could be completed. The tower holds the ring of six bells and these were recast and rehung in 1951 when the Tenor was inscribed to the memory of the Revd. H.C. Sturges and his family - a much loved vicar from before World War I.



By 1801 Bodenham's population was estimated at 887 and the 19th Century saw many changes. The remaining unenclosed land in the Parish (some 1300 acres) was enclosed as a result of the Inclosure Award of 1802, significantly altering traditional farming practices. In 1809 Richard Arkwright bought the Hampton Court Estate from the Coningsby family, who had held it since the 17th Century, and acquired the Lordship of Bodenham. The Arkwrights acquired most of the houses in Bodenham (Devereux) and later in the Century bought many in other parts of the Parish. The estate kept the houses in good repair – hence the survival of so many. The Arkwright family remained in the area until 1912 when the estate was sold. They donated the land for the short lived school/ chapel at Maund Bryan and also for the present St Michael's School.

The school building occupies a prominent position in Bodenham Village. Built in 1863, the original building served well, needing few additions until 1971 when an extension was opened to provide a hall, kitchen and extra classrooms to accommodate increasing pupil numbers. The then headmaster was Mr. Harley Dance, who was appointed in 1950 and remained in post until 1976, when he handed over to Mr. Les Herbert, who also served as a long term member and former Chairman of the Parish Council.

Although the Anglican Church was the main focus of religious life and indeed of much of the social life of the time, Bodenham had a significant Methodist community started by Joseph Watkins. The first timber framed chapel was replaced by the present brick chapel in 1874.



As the 19th Century progressed, communication with the outside world became easier as roads were built, including the Toll Road which follows the A417 from Hope to Cornett Bridge - the old toll house can still be seen near Saffron's Cross. In 1853 Dinmore railway station opened to passengers and by 1851 the number of people living in the Parish had risen to around 1100.

In the early part of the last Century there was considerable growth in social activities for people from all walks of life - Scouts and Brownies, of course, but also drama, country dancing, reading, gardening clubs and societies. Sports such as tennis, football and cricket were popular, as was air gun shooting. In the 1950s the Parish Hall was a large, wooden, ex-army, prefabricated building with a capacity to hold 350 people. Today's fine hall, completed in 1978 and extended in 1997, can hold 200 people. The picture emerges of a village that is self-contained but not at all limited in its interests.

Bodenham was noted for its long association with Hereford cattle. The Vern was home to probably the most famous breeding Hereford herd, that of Captain Richard de Quincey. Known as "The Captain", he bought The Vern in 1922 and set about improving the breed in which he was outstandingly successful until his death in 1965. Vern bulls were exported widely and won a great many prizes. This is remembered in the sculpture of Hereford calves on Bodenham Moor Green.

Fifty years ago there were some 20 farms specialising in milk production, which was mostly sold to Cadbury's Marlbrook milk factory and collected daily by their lorries. However, most also had side-lines, like potatoes or flocks of ewes, and apple and pear orchards abounded. There were two hop growers left in the Parish. Today, the only remnants of this previously lucrative crop are to be found self-seeded in the hedgerows. There are a few of the old apple orchards remaining and today most of the local farms carry on mixed farming, a noticeable exception being Broadfield Court which also has a thriving vineyard and restaurant business.

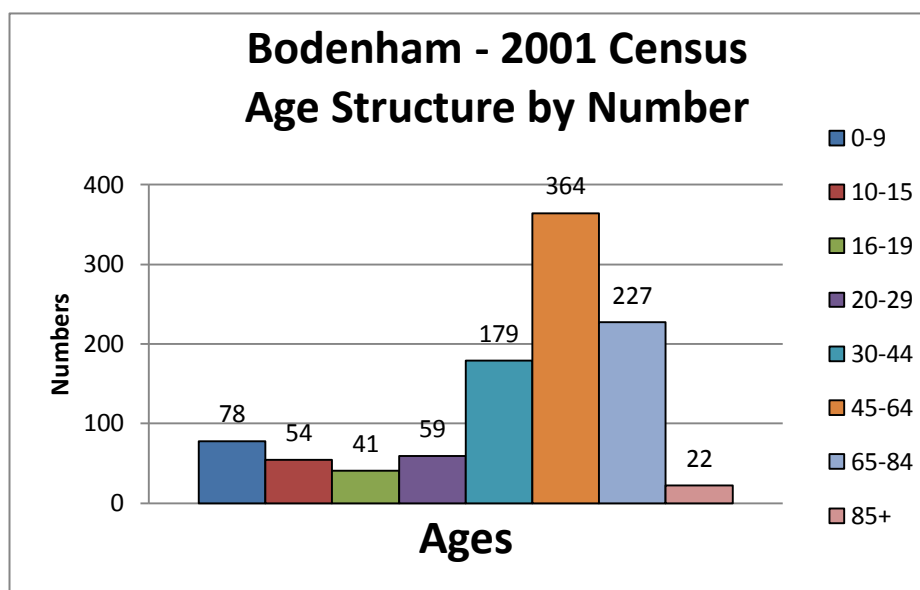
Mains electricity only reached Bodenham in 1950 and did not reach the outlying areas until ten years later. Many houses then still had a well with bucket and chain; water mains were not installed until the 1970s. Although motor vehicles were by no means as numerous as today, petrol was obtainable at Saffron's Cross Garage (first opened in the 1930s), England's Gate

and Medlicott's Shop and General Store, now the Post Office and Hairdressers. The Medlicott brothers had developed a large and thriving business in the early part of the Century supplying goods over a wide area. At one time they were corn merchants, grocers, butchers and bakers, but the business declined sharply as travel to Hereford and Leominster became easier. The site of their agricultural store is now occupied by Bache's Bargain Warehouse, which opened in 1980.

Bodenham Sand and Gravel was also a major feature of the village scene for many years, extracting material from what is now the Bodenham Lake. Taken over by Redlands, a proposed expansion into fields on the other side of the River Lugg was successfully fought by villagers at a public inquiry in the 1980s. The gravel exhausted, the quarry site with its lake remains as a permanent reminder, nature reserve and recreation facility.



After 1871 the population had declined sharply and remained around 700 until 1981, by which time it had risen to 1067 following the development of the Ash Grove and Orchard Close housing estates from 1968 onwards. Looking at Bodenham as it is now in the 21st Century, it is unfortunate that the latest (2011) Census data are not yet available for the Parish and that we have to rely on statistical information which is now over a decade old. However, there is no obvious reason to suppose that, for example, the age structure of Bodenham is greatly different from that recorded in 2001. The chart below shows the age profile in that year in terms of numbers (the total being 1,024):



BASIS OF THIS PLAN

This Plan is based on a survey carried out in October 2010, in which residents were invited to give their opinions on a wide variety of aspects of life in the Parish. The content of the questionnaire and the issues included were based on matters raised at 'Planning for Real' events held in the Village in July 2010. Questionnaires were distributed by hand to every adult in the Parish, and a letter and a questionnaire were left at dwellings where no personal contact could be made. The delivery followed a publicity campaign that the Survey was imminent.



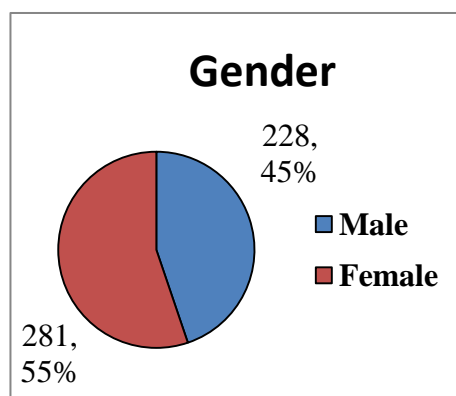
Completed questionnaires were collected by hand a week later, but residents were given the option of dropping off a completed form in a box at the garage should they have concerns about confidentiality. Completed questionnaires were gathered from 529 residents; this represented 70% of the 761 forms that were handed out. (The adult population of the Parish at the time of the 2001 Census was 869 people).

Simultaneously a younger people's opinion survey was undertaken which attracted 66 responses.

The Survey results were compiled and analysed by Herefordshire Council Research Team on behalf of the Parish Plan Steering Group.

ADULT SURVEY

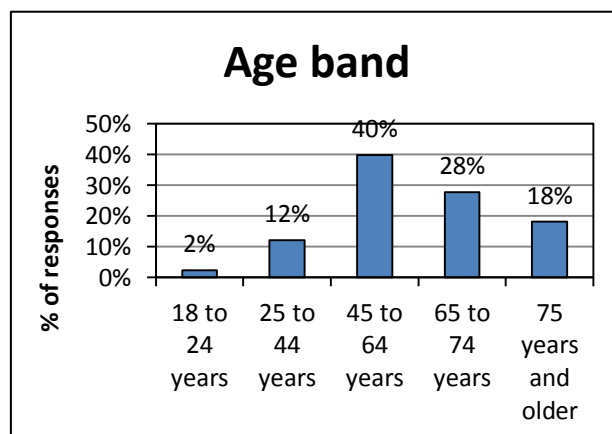
Of the 529 respondents to the Adult Questionnaire, 509 indicated their gender. As shown in the chart below, there were more women than men, the ratio being 11 women to 9 men. This imbalance is typical of society as a whole and particularly in areas with an aging population.



The age profile of the respondents is shown in the table and graph below. Older people are more likely than younger people to complete survey questionnaires and this is probably reflected in the age distribution of the respondents: 14% were under 45, 40% were between 45 and 64, and 46%

were 65 and over. At the time of the 2001 Census about a quarter of the residents were 65 and older. Generally the population has aged since 2001, but whether 46% of Bodenham's population are now over 65 cannot be confirmed until the 2011 census results become available.

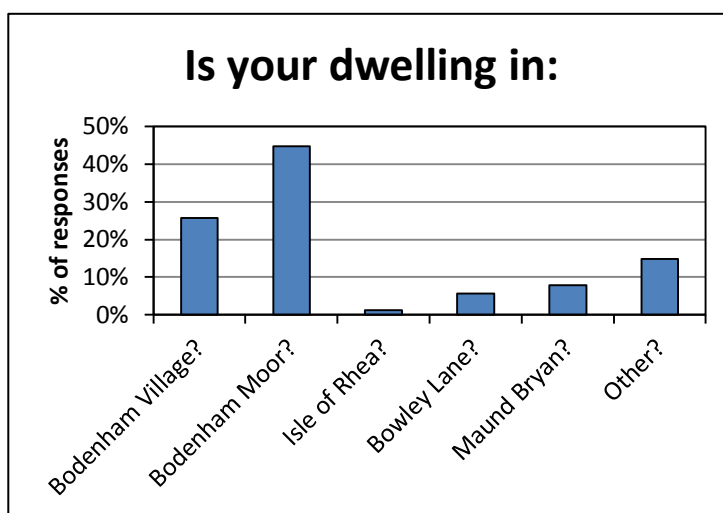
C2. What is your age?	Number	%
18 to 24 years	12	2%
25 to 44 years	62	12%
45 to 64 years	202	40%
65 to 74 years	141	28%
75 years and older	92	18%
Total responses	509	
Not answered	20	
Total survey responses	529	



Two-thirds of the respondents had lived in the Parish for more than ten years, while 9% were relative newcomers having been resident for less than two years. The remaining quarter had lived in the Parish for 2-10 years.

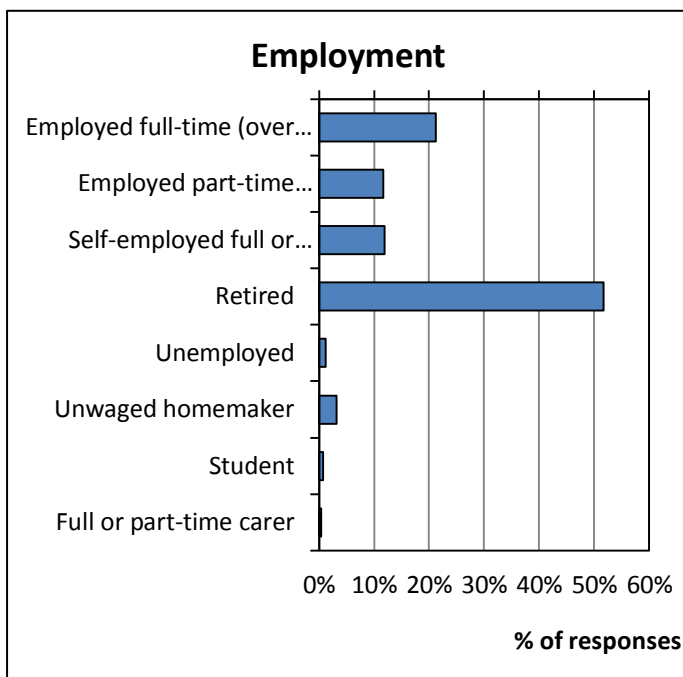
Respondents were asked which part of the Parish they lived in. The answers to the question are summarised below in the table and graph. Just over a quarter of the respondents came from Bodenham Village and rather more (45%) from Bodenham Moor. Together these two settlements accounted for 71% of the respondents. Isle of Rhea (1%), Bowley Lane (6%) and Maund Bryan (8%) contributed 73 responses between them. Of the other areas specified, 13 were in Woodhouse Lane/ Caldervale, 7 were from Dinmore, 7 were in Chapel Lane and 4 were in Felton/ Ullingswick. The remainder were scattered elsewhere in the Parish.

Is your dwelling in:	Number	%
Bodenham Village?	127	26%
Bodenham Moor?	221	45%
Isle of Rhea?	6	1%
Bowley Lane?	28	6%
Maund Bryan?	39	8%
Other?	73	15%
Total responses	494	
Not answered	35	
Total survey responses	529	



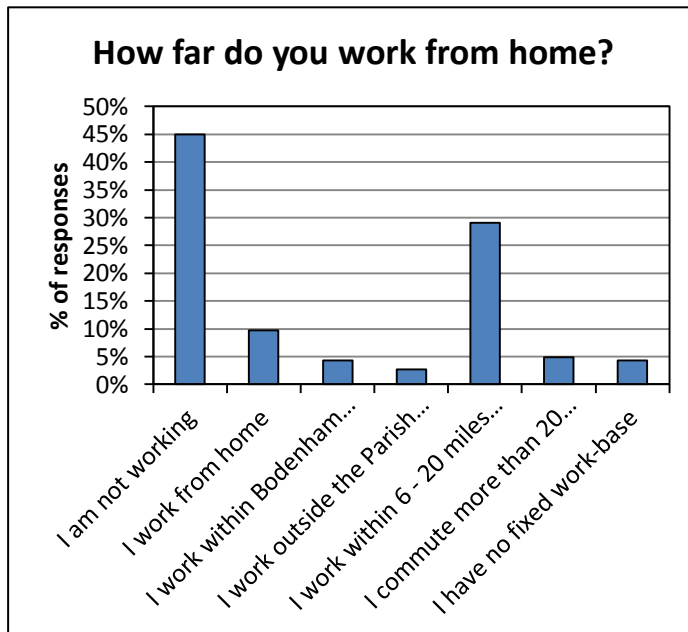
Just over half the respondents (52%) described themselves as “retired”, while 45% were employed or self-employed. The full breakdown of employment status can be seen in the chart and table on the next page.

How is your employment status best described? (Tick all that apply)	Number	%
Employed full-time (over 30 hours a week)	107	21%
Employed part-time (under 30 hours a week)	59	12%
Self-employed full or part-time	60	12%
Retired	261	52%
Unemployed	6	1%
Unwaged homemaker	16	3%
Student	4	1%
Full or part-time carer	2	0%
Total responses	505	
Not answered	24	
Total survey responses	529	



Nearly 60% of the respondents either do not work or work within the Parish. A third travel over 6 miles to work; some of these commute over 20 miles. The full details are displayed in the table and chart below.

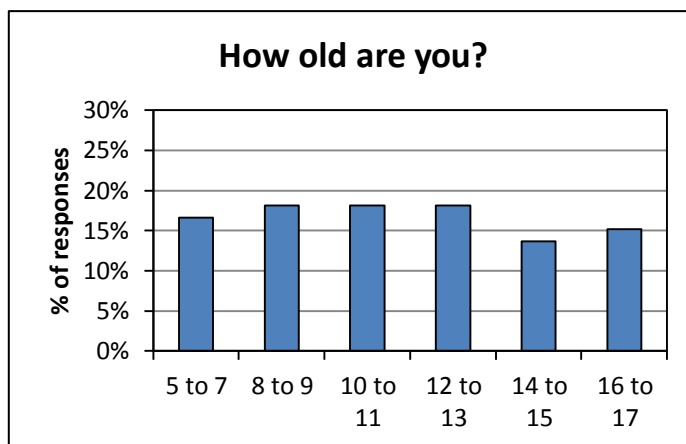
How far from home do you work?	Number	%
I am not working	186	45%
I work from home	40	10%
I work within Bodenheim Parish	18	4%
I work outside the Parish but within 5 miles from home	11	3%
I work within 6 - 20 miles from home	120	29%
I commute more than 20 miles from home	20	5%
I have no fixed work-base	18	4%
Total responses	413	
Not answered	116	
Total survey responses	529	



YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY

Turning to the Young People's Questionnaire, there were 66 responses, evenly balanced between male (32) and female (34) individuals, who, as the table and chart on the next page show, were also fairly evenly spread across the 5 to 17 age range.

How old are you?	Number	%
5 to 7	11	17%
8 to 9	12	18%
10 to 11	12	18%
12 to 13	12	18%
14 to 15	9	14%
16 to 17	10	15%
Total responses	66	
Not answered	0	
Total survey responses	66	



About a third of the respondents (35%) live in Bodenham Village, nearly another quarter (23%) live in Bodenham Moor and 18% in Maund Bryan, with smaller proportions elsewhere in the Parish.

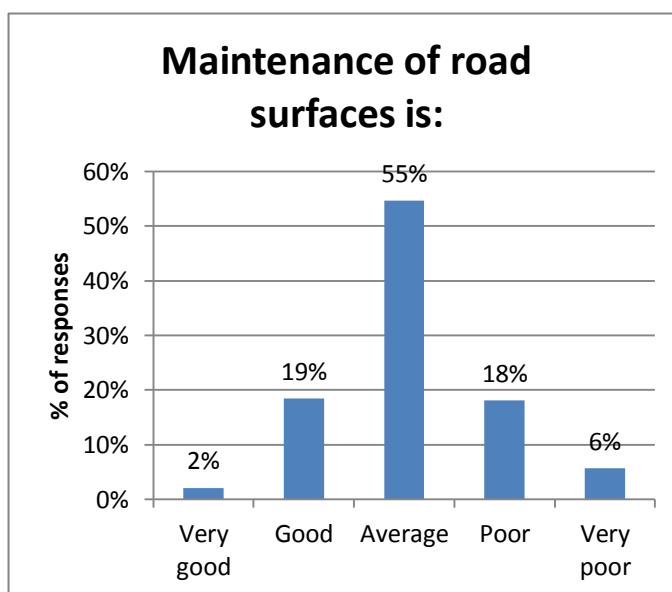
Four respondents said that they had a part-time job, and three received pay for this. However, very few of the respondents to the Survey would be old enough to be eligible for (legally) paid employment since only 19 (29% of the total) were aged 14 or over. Although a small majority (52%) did not want paid work or volunteering commitments, a sizeable proportion (43%) of those not currently in paid employment stated that they would like part-time work and 10% would like to be a part-time volunteer.

HIGHWAYS

Road Maintenance in the Parish

Most respondents (55%) were non-committal about road maintenance, thinking it was “average”. Only 21% thought it was “good” or “very good” whilst 25% thought it was “poor” or “very poor”.

What do you think of the maintenance of road surfaces in the Parish?	Number	%
Very good	11	2%
Good	98	19%
Average	289	55%
Poor	96	18%
Very poor	30	6%
Total responses	524	100%
Not answered	5	
Total survey responses	529	

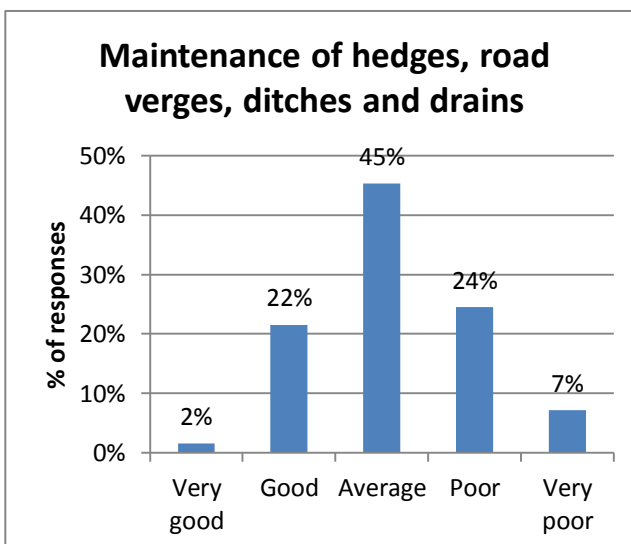


However, there was an indication that roads were not so good in outlying areas, like Chapel Lane and Maund Bryan, where over a third of residents classified road maintenance as “poor” or “very poor”.

Maintenance of Hedges, Road Verges, Ditches and Drains

The general view was that maintenance of hedges, road verges, ditches and drains is “average to poor”.

What do you think of the maintenance of hedges, road verges, ditches and drains?	Number	%
Very good	8	2%
Good	111	22%
Average	233	45%
Poor	126	24%
Very poor	37	7%
Total responses	515	
Not answered	14	
Total survey responses	529	

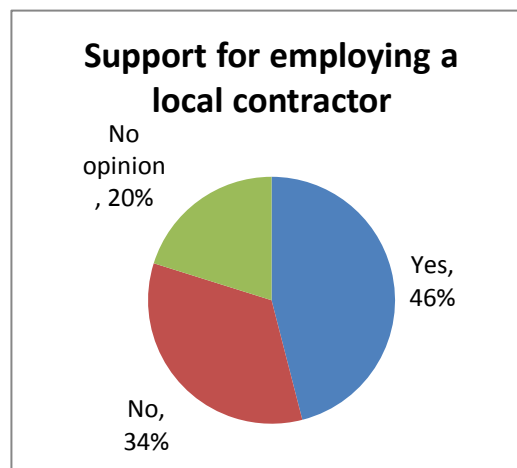


Residents made 169 comments about specific problems relating to road and drain maintenance. Several concerned hedge maintenance (or lack of it) by landowners. In particular there were complaints about clippings and thorns not been cleared off the road after hedge trimming and about places where hedges impede visibility or hinder pedestrians.

Residents seemed to feel more strongly about the lack of maintenance of ditches and drains across the Parish. Again, in many cases this is due to failure by landowners to carry out their responsibilities. There was praise for the work done by the Bodenham Flood Protection Group in clearing ditches and culverts, but some castigation for farmers who did not clear the mud their vehicles deposited on roads.

Employment of a Lengthsman.

Would you support the Parish Council employing a local contractor to maintain	Number	%
Yes	235	46%
No	173	34%
No opinion	103	20%
Total responses	511	
Not answered	18	
Total survey responses	529	



Residents were asked whether or not they would support the Parish Council employing a local contractor to maintain hedges, ditches and drains, trim verges, and repair fences, etc. instead of Herefordshire Council. It was pointed out that the scheme is grant-funded by Herefordshire Council for the first 3 years, with 25% of the cost being paid by an increase in Parish Precept/ Council Tax thereafter.

Out of the 511 residents who replied, 235 said “yes”, 173 said “no” and 103 had no opinion. The mandate for joining the lengthsman scheme, although a slim one, was therefore positive.

Winter Gritting and Snow Clearance

It is Herefordshire Council’s policy not to grit or clear minor roads in Winter and the responses to the Survey reflected this distinction clearly, with 90% of those who expressed an opinion thinking that the treatment of main roads was “Average to Very Good” and 86% regarding performance on minor roads as “Average to Very Poor”.

On the question of salt/ grit bins a high proportion of respondents (39%) had no opinion, but of the remainder twice as many thought more bins were needed than not and 165 locations were suggested for these. A very wide range of points and roads throughout the Parish were mentioned, but specific spots that were named included by the Doctor’s surgery, at England’s Gate and on the bridge over the River Lugg.

There is, however, a resource issue in terms of the number of bins that can be supplied and kept topped up. This is exacerbated by residents using the grit on their private properties, rather than on the roads. There therefore needs to be a balanced approach, with the key locations which have been suggested, such as near England’s Gate and at the Lugg Bridge, which are not already on Amey’s list, being added to it.

Road Safety

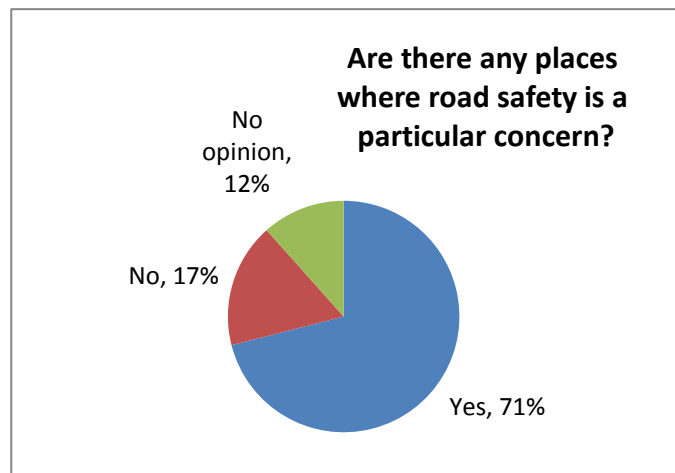
A substantial number of respondents - 160 of the 529 residents who returned survey forms - did not answer the question “Are there any places in the Parish where you think road safety is a particular matter for concern?” Of the 369 residents who did answer the question, 48 (12%) expressed “no opinion” and 72 (17%) thought that there were no places for particular concern. However, 71% who responded disagreed and the main issues for them were:

- Junctions – A417, Woodhouse Lane, Chapel Lane and Dunfield Lane.
- Speeding – A417, The Moor, Chapel Lane and generally during the daily school runs.
- Protection for pedestrians - the need



for a pedestrian crossing on the A417 near the Parish Hall and for the extension of the footway at England's Gate.

Are there any places in the Parish where you think road safety is a particular matter for concern?	Number	%
Yes	294	71%
No	72	17%
No opinion	48	12%
Total responses	414	
Not answered	115	
Total survey responses	529	



ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- The Parish Clerk is now the Parish's central point of contact with Herefordshire Council/ Amey.
- CLP Survey comments about problems with drainage, potholes and hedges have been passed to Herefordshire Council/ Amey.
- The Speed Indicating Device (SID) is active again in the Parish.
- The Safer Roads Partnership have agreed to provide speed enforcement on the A417 and have already deployed there on several occasions.
- Herefordshire Council have agreed to remove the "A465 Hereford" road sign at the A417/ England's Gate junction along the C1125.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- The Parish Walk programme continues.
- Liaison with the Police and with the Safer Roads Partnership for speed enforcement continues.
- Support for the Bodenham Flood Protection Group continues.
- Amey to be asked to provide grit/salt bins at England's Gate and the Lugg Bridge.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

- Establish 'Road Watch' to monitor all parish roads.
- Ensure that the road and drain maintenance issues raised by residents are resolved.
- Review the effectiveness of Herefordshire Council's gritting and snow clearance operation after each Winter.
- In Winter encourage residents to clear snow and ice from the pavements outside their properties.
- Publicise that householders who clear snow or ice outside their properties do not lay themselves open to public liability claims.
- Encourage local businesses to grit the immediate area outside their premises in Winter when conditions make this advisable.
- Consider engaging a local contractor to grit local estate roads when winter weather conditions are severe.

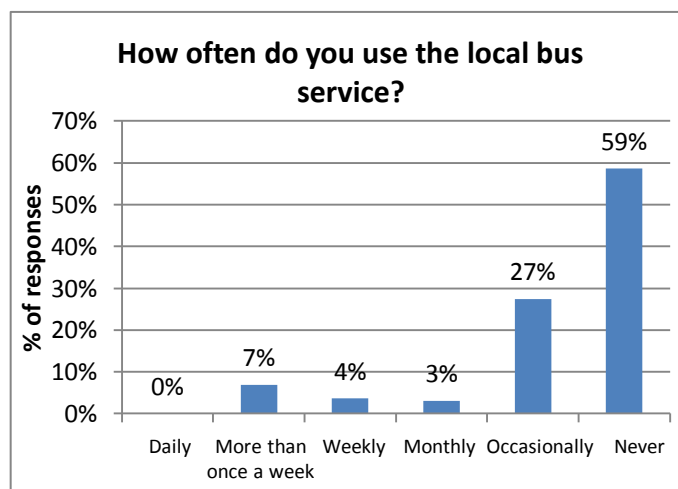
Long Term

- Aim to secure the following road safety/ traffic calming measures:
 - A means for pedestrians to cross the A417 near the Parish Hall safely, for example a light-controlled crossing.
 - The reduction of the present 40 mph speed limit along the A417 to 30mph.
 - Ability to use the Speed Indicator Device in the 40 mph section of the A417.
 - Traffic calming on the C1125 near the Post Office and at the Dunfield Lane junction.
 - A new pavement along the Moor South from the Post Office to the end of the residential area.
 - A new pavement along Millcroft Road/C1121 to Bodenham School.
 - The extension of the A417 footway round to England's Gate.
 - Traffic calming and the reduction to 20mph of the present 30 mph speed limit along the C1121 in the area of Bodenham School.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Most of those who completed the questionnaire (59%) never use the local bus service and 27% only use it occasionally. 14% of respondents use it at least monthly, but only one respondent was a daily passenger. Residents of The Moor and Bodenham Village were most likely to use the bus service; 21% of the former and 12% of the latter used it at least monthly. Elsewhere the usage rate of ‘Monthly’ or more frequently dropped to 5%.

How often do you use the local bus service?	Number	%
Daily	1	0%
More than once a week	36	7%
Weekly	19	4%
Monthly	16	3%
Occasionally	143	27%
Never	306	59%
Total responses	521	
Not answered	8	
Total survey responses	529	



The main points which emerged from other answers to the Survey were that:

- The great majority of bus users (94%) go to Hereford, with 33% to Leominster and some use the service to connect for onward travel.
- Most users (253 out of 296) rate the service as ‘Average’ to ‘Very Good’.
- 117 out of 250 users said that more frequent buses would be the main improvement which would encourage more people to use the bus.
- 39 residents wanted better bus shelters. This was anticipated and new ones have recently been provided by the Parish Council.
- The main reasons why the buses are not better used seem to be cost, poor service frequency and the lack of late evening services.

In the current economic climate this is the classic “use it or lose it” situation and, if the Survey had shown that the bus service was vital for the Parish and was threatened with being cut, the Parish Council could have increased the precept to help pay the subsidy currently paid by Herefordshire Council. Regrettably, however, there is not much support for buses in the community, partly because the bus routes do not serve the whole Parish. In consequence the Survey does not provide a mandate for the Parish to pick up the subsidy costs through local taxation.

Other organisations (Community Wheels, AGE Concern and Surestart) have minibuses which could provide alternate services. They would need dispensation to run regular services, but currently are underused.

The Survey also asked for residents' views on the school bus service. 37 parents said that their children used it. The primary school service to St Michael's is very limited (Hope-under-Dinmore to Saffron's Cross to the School), so most of these are probably secondary school users going to Hereford. Of these 32 rated the service "Average to Very Good".

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- **Two new bus shelters have been provided.**

FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

- **Explore with Herefordshire Council the possibility of making better use of existing community minibuses.**

ENVIRONMENT

Litter and Fly Tipping

43% of respondents to the Survey think that litter and fly tipping is not a problem in Bodenham. However, litter seems to be mainly along the verges and in the hedgerows of the main roads and back lanes rather than in the more residential areas.

Although only 147 out of 529 respondents (29%) did consider it to be a problem, somewhat surprisingly even more (166) have volunteered to take part in litter-clearing initiatives.

Dog Mess and Dog Litter Bins

Although only 31% of respondents think that dog mess is an issue in the Parish, a much greater number (52%) support the provision of dog litter-bins and only 26% would not. Furthermore, 27 residents have volunteered to help empty such bins, if provided, thus making this a practical initiative if the volunteers can be contacted and the funding found. In addition, 17 people would be prepared to take part in other dog mess clearance initiatives.

Hedgerow Management

54% of respondents would like better hedgerow management. This seems to be largely a road safety issue, as speed restriction signs are becoming overgrown and line-of-sight can be a problem at road junctions.

Biodiversity

After hedgerow management, the next most significant environmental issue (important to 39% of respondents) was to create more wildlife friendly areas in Bodenham. We already have a number of wildlife protection sites in the Parish:

- The River Lugg is both a ‘Special Area of Conservation (SAC)’ and a SSSI protected by these international and national designations. The relevant protection features seem to be migratory fish, otters and freshwater crayfish.



- Bodenham Lake is a ‘Special Wildlife Site (SWS)’, administered by the local authority. It is generically described as "wet woodland", but, apart from the bird watching hide, most of the West of the reserve is a restricted nesting area not accessible to the general public.
- There are other SWSs in the Parish:
 - Maund Common is described as "unimproved wet hay meadow with excellent flora including Yellow Rattle, Common Fleabane and abundant orchids". Its maintenance is a vexed issue as Herefordshire Council refuses to be involved.
 - Upper Maund Common is a “wet pasture with good flora including Ragged Robin and Yellow Iris. Curlew, Snipe and Lapwing have been recorded”. Two fine Black Poplar specimens will be found there.
 - Five further woodland sites are to be found in the Parish. They are generally described as “ancient woodland or semi-natural woodland with Oak, Birch and Ash mostly predominant.” They are all in private ownership and landowners’ consent would be required to explore them.

Creating wild areas within the Village could look untidy and be unpopular, but the provision of bird, owl, bat and/or insect boxes would be generally acceptable. Possible sites include the Village Green, the Churchyard, the School, and the trees at the bottom of Orchard Close and around Hamwyn Joinery.



Other Environmental Issues

The Survey asked about particular nuisances in the vicinity of people's homes. Several possible nuisance types were listed: bonfires, noise from local businesses, noisy neighbours, noisy leisure activities, road noise/ noisy vehicles, noisy dogs and aircraft noise. 53% of respondents had no problems with any of these. However, noise from aircraft, road traffic and dogs bothered a significant number, as did smells from the dairy and chicken farms within the Parish. This is a rural farming area and as such we have to expect the associated smells from time to time.

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- Two very successful 'litter picks' have now been held, the first on Saturday, 1 October 2011 and the second on Saturday, 10 March 2012.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Continue regular 'litter picks'.
- Provide all litter bins with dog mess stickers and liners.
- Arrange for new combined litter and dog mess bins for the footbridge at the West end of Orchard Close, in Brockington Road and on the A417 pavement.

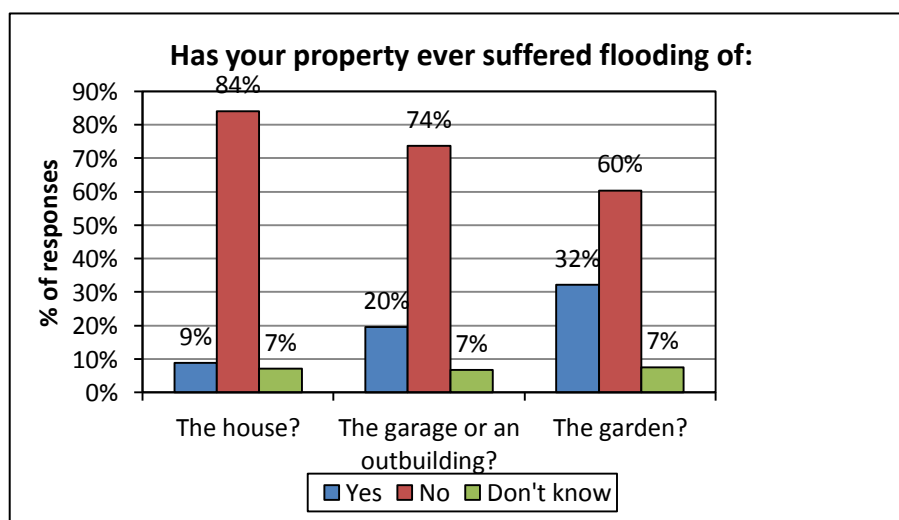
FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

- **Continue to encourage property owners to ensure that their hedges do not overhang pavements and footpaths.**
- **Form an Environmental and Wildlife Group to:**
 - **Regularly monitor all areas of the Parish for litter.**
 - **Report any fly tipping.**
 - **Undertake the upkeep of the Maund Common wild life site.**
 - **Arrange the provision of bird, owl, bat and/or insect boxes around the Parish.**

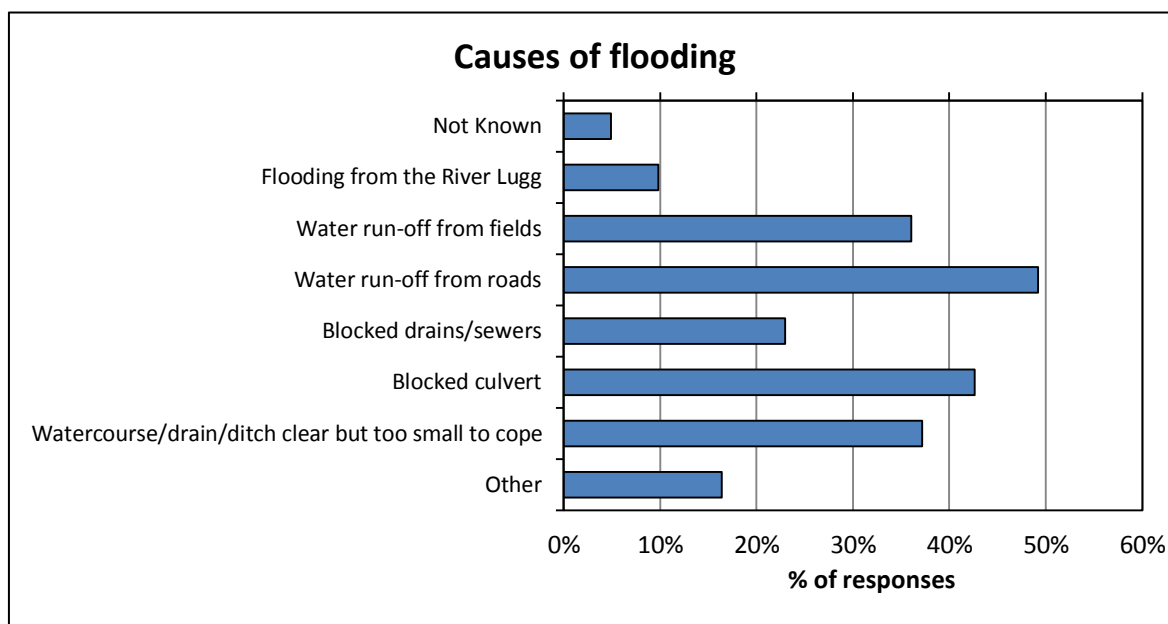
FLOOD ALLEVIATION AND IMPROVED DRAINAGE

In the Adult Questionnaire residents were asked whether their property had ever flooded. Some 480 responded, of whom 41 (9%) reported having had flooding of their homes, 90 (20%) flooding in a garage or out-building and 155 (32%), nearly a third, flooding of their gardens.



218 (46%) of respondents said that they would be prepared to help others in the Parish in an emergency and it will be important to try and harness these additional volunteers to supplement the existing Bodenham Flood Protection Group.

Flooding of garages/ outbuildings appeared more prevalent in Maund Bryan than elsewhere; 38% of respondents reported this compared with 20% across the Parish as a whole. Although 32% of respondents ticked that their gardens had flooded, the proportion rose to 62% of respondents in the Village and 59% of those in Maund Bryan.



Residents who experienced flooding were asked about the causes and the results are shown in the table above. By far the most common causes quoted were water run-off from roads and fields, compounded by blocked drains, sewers and watercourses. This was supported by the majority of responses in the 'Other' category and highlights that much the greatest risk to Bodenham is not fluvial flooding from the River Lugg, but flash flooding by water running off the surrounding hills.

There is a wealth of information to supplement the data garnered by the Survey. This is because, following the flash flooding in July 2007, it became apparent that the authorities did not have the resources to offer the Parish as much assistance as required to prevent a recurrence. The Parish Council therefore decided to take the initiative and to form a self-help group capable of carrying out the action necessary to monitor drains and watercourses, to keep them clear of debris and to take other precautions, such as maintaining stocks of sandbags, identifying those residents who, owing to age or infirmity, would need help in an emergency, and establishing contact with the National Flood Forum and with other local organisations.



This self-help group, the Bodenham Flood Protection Group (BFPG), now has its own constitution, an elected committee representing each area of the Village, and a membership of some 35 volunteers who meet every month.

The real work of the Group is, however, carried out at working party sessions during which members gather to carry out such tasks as clearing drains and culverts, removing silt build up around flap valves, and cutting back vegetation encroaching on watercourses. This work has been - and continues to be - invaluable in helping to prevent flooding in the Village and to prepare the community to cope with any future emergencies. It has been greatly helped by two other organisations. The first is the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board which, after the 2007 flood, stepped in to improve the capacity of the Millcroft Brook by widening part of it and by building a relief channel for the Millcroft Farm culvert. The second benefactor has been the Environment Agency, which in May 2011 awarded Bodenham a grant of £144,500 for flood protection measures for those individual properties identified as being at a high risk of flooding.

All the BFPG's hard work and the major contribution by the Internal Drainage Board do not, however, substantially reduce the risk of flooding in Bodenham, while the Environment Agency's grant helps protect particular houses, but not their garages or gardens, much less the community as a whole. The continuing risk can only be substantially mitigated in two ways, first, by physical improvement to the main watercourse - the Millcroft Brook - and, second, by periodic major campaigns, on a scale beyond the capacity of the BFPG itself, to clear and, where necessary, re-instate all the local watercourses.



Two separate studies carried out by professional hydrologists in 2009 and 2010 have shown that the key to tackling the risk of flash flooding is to remove the choke point in the Millcroft Brook created by the twin culverts carrying it under the C1121 at its junction with Ketch Lane. Both studies recommend that these be replaced by a box culvert matched in capacity to the rest of the watercourse. By ensuring that flash flooding is carried away to the River Lugg as quickly and efficiently as possible, this is the single project which would significantly reduce the flood risk to the Village.

The more recent of the hydrological studies also stressed that Herefordshire Council must fulfil its obligation to carry out the regular and complete maintenance of drains, culverts and watercourses across the Parish. While the BFPG can assist in this task, much of it is beyond the physical and/or technical capability of its members. Furthermore, neither the Group, nor indeed the Parish Council, have the authority necessary to compel riparian landowners to meet their legal obligations. The failure of Herefordshire Council in this regard was a major contributory factor in the 2007 flooding in Orchard Close and the July 2007 episode also exposed concerns that certain residents were reducing the effectiveness of Millcroft Brook, either by extending their gardens into it, or by failing to maintain their sections of it, or both.

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- **Funded by a £144,500 Environment Agency Grant, flood protection equipment has been installed in nearly 40 properties.**
- **A countywide Flood Protection Exhibition and Flood Insurance Open Forum was held in the Parish Hall on 7 November 2011.**

FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

- **Press Herefordshire Council to discharge fully its responsibilities for the regular and complete maintenance of drains, culverts and watercourses across the Parish.**

Long Term

- **Aim to reduce the flash flooding risk to Bodenham Moor by the replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts with a box culvert.**

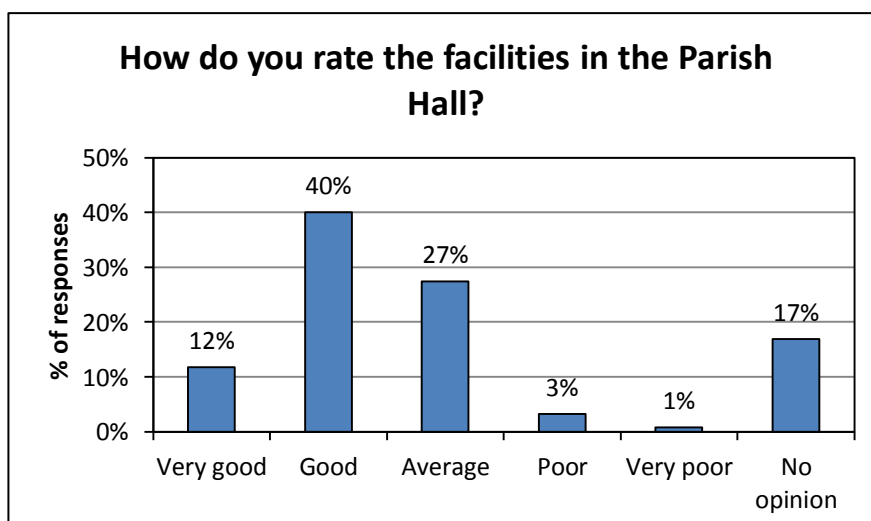
LOCAL FACILITIES

The Parish Hall

There was an excellent response to the Survey's question about usage of the Parish Hall, with only 6 of the 529 respondents not answering. A high proportion of those who did (78%) use the Parish Hall either regularly (19%) or occasionally (59%). Analysis of usage by where people live suggests that the residents of The Moor (83%), the Village (80%) and Maund Bryan (83%) are more likely to make use of the Hall than residents of the Isle of Rhea/ Bowley Lane (44%) and other scattered parts of the parish.

Just over half (52%) thought the Hall's facilities were 'Good' or 'Very Good', 31% thought less highly of them, and 17% had no opinion.

Residents were asked how the Hall's facilities could be improved and 94 comments were received in response. Most related to general refurbishment and



modernization, together with the need to improve the toilets and the kitchen, to update the kitchen's equipment, and to improve lighting and acoustics.

Other Facilities

The Survey went on to ask what other communal facilities residents would like, suggesting allotments, a communal composting facility, bulk buy food facility or a Local Exchange Trading Scheme (LETS) ⁽¹⁾. There was a low response to this with only 194 replies (37%), of which 129 expressed an interest in communal composting, 63 in LETS, 40 in a bulk buy food club and 33 in allotments. Other suggestions included land share and car share schemes, as well as some facilities, such as recycling bins and education in the use of computers, which already exist.

The questionnaire also asked residents if they had problems accessing a dentist, supermarket, bank, cash point or other facilities. 84% had no problems, suggesting that 16% had problems accessing one or more of these four. A cash point in the village was needed by 28 respondents and this is a facility which is already available, albeit with some limitations, at the Post Office.

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- **Improvements to the Parish Hall are now in the Hall's planned programme of works.**

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- **Assess the degree of interest in, and viability of, allotments, communal composting, bulk food buying and a Local Exchange Trading Scheme.**
- **Establish a Sustainability Plan for the Parish.**
- **Publicise:**
 - **The existence of the cash withdrawal facility at the Post Office.**
 - **The existence of "Community Wheels".**
 - **Computer training and facilities available through the Bodenham Community Access Point (CAP)**
 - **Existing recycling facilities.**
- **Ensure that all parish facilities are more widely known.**

1. A scheme to exchange goods and services. Each item of goods or service is converted into interest-free credits, so direct swaps do not have to be made.

FUTURE ACTIONS

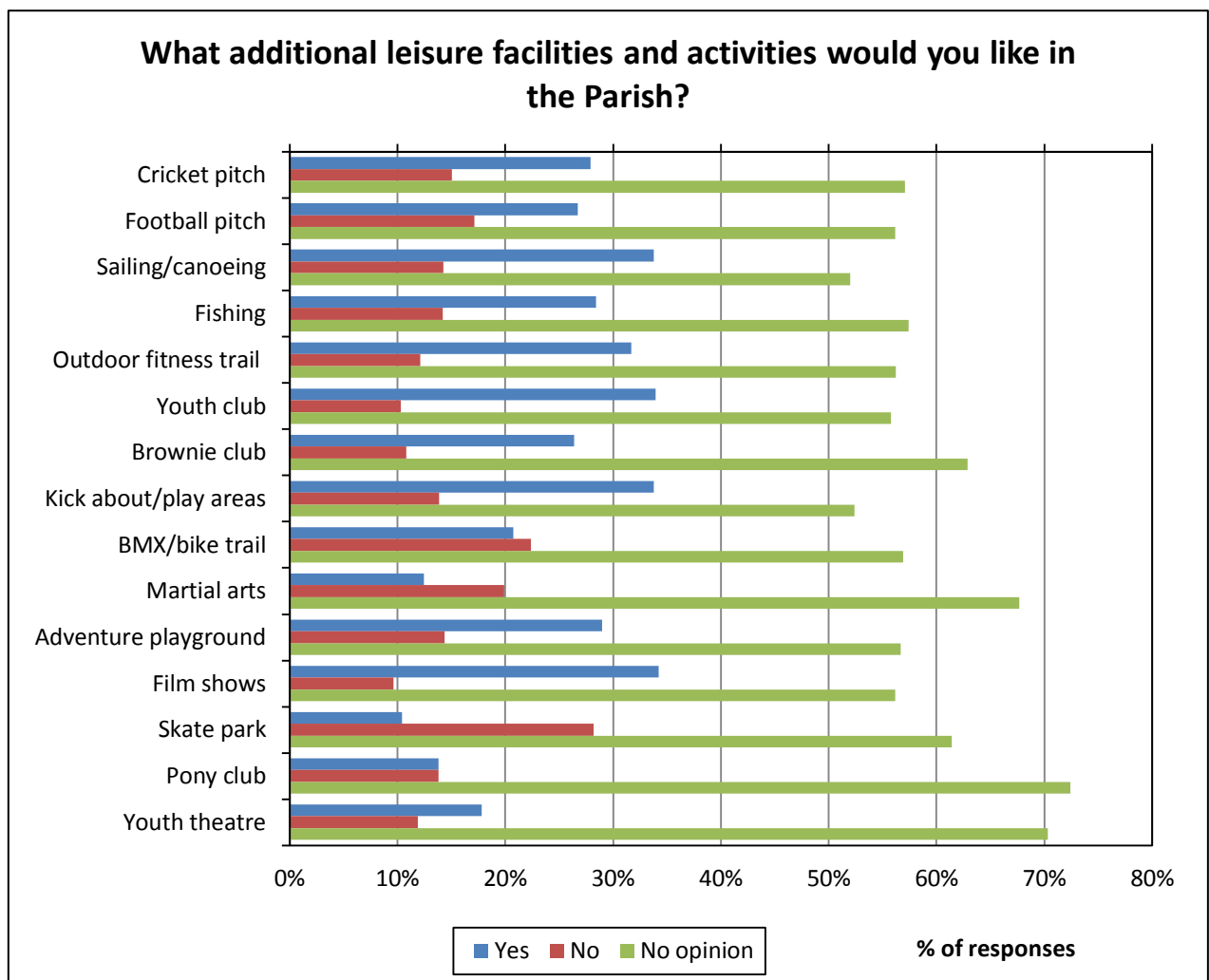
Medium Term

- **Refurbish the Parish Hall's kitchen and toilets.**
- **Establish a Facilities Group to improve the provision of communal facilities in the Parish.**

LEISURE

Additional Leisure Facilities and Activities

The Survey listed 15 possible additional leisure facilities and activities and residents were asked to indicate whether they wanted to see them in the Parish or not. There was also an opportunity for them to specify other activities they might like to see here. Some 60% of the respondents answered all or part of the question and their replies seem to reflect the needs of the under-18s; presumably parents speaking for children as well as for themselves. (The responses made by those



under 18 are covered in the ‘Young People’ section on pages 34 - 36 below).

Sailing/ canoeing, the provision of a youth club, a cricket pitch, film shows, a kickabout/ play area and a fitness trail gained the most support, while all 15 activities attracted some negative responses, although it is possible that some people ticked the “no” option simply because they, personally, were not interested. The large number of people with ‘no opinion’ and an essentially low response to some activities suggest that there may be insufficient enthusiasm to maintain some of the activities in our relatively small community. In such cases the best option may be to publicise their availability elsewhere, especially in Hereford.

Just over a quarter of respondents, 75 in all, would be prepared to help with organising the activities, ranging from 36 who would volunteer to help with a youth club down to 11 who would help with a skate park.

Public Footpaths

There seems to have been some confusion about the difference between a ‘public footpath’ (across fields or other undeveloped land) and a pavement (adjacent to a road) which will have influenced responses to the Survey. With this proviso, 80% of the respondents said that they used footpaths at least occasionally and 38% use them at least monthly.

When asked whether there was a need for better maintenance of footpaths, better signage, better information, or more footpaths, the majority of respondents had no opinion or did not want these improvements. However, 36% of respondents wanted to see better maintenance, 30% better signage, and a similar proportion would like to see more footpaths. A greater proportion, 41%, wanted better information about local footpaths, even though leaflets and notice boards with maps are already available.

Horse Riding and Bridleways.

On the subject of horse riding and bridleways, there would seem to have been some confusion over bridleways and footpaths. Thus, although at first sight there was an excellent response on the issue (511 out of a possible 529), the great majority of respondents had ‘no opinion’ or did not want any of the suggested improvements. Given that only 26 people claimed ever to ride, it would appear that those who did want better bridleways included a large number of walkers and other users, rather than riders. Comments included the need for more bridleways, especially since these would allow safer routes for riders (as well as walkers, children, and others), together with suggestions that these might be provided if landowners could develop off-road riding schemes or old bridleways could be re-opened.

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- **A licence to publish Ordnance Survey maps of all local public footpaths and bridleways on the Parish Website has been obtained.**

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- **Publicise all the leisure activities currently available in Bodenham and neighbouring areas.**
- **Bring together enthusiasts willing to help organise leisure activities in the Parish.**
- **Seek ideas for improvements to leisure activities in Bodenham.**
- **Publicise local footpaths and bridleways and obtain ideas for improvements to them.**
- **Pass all Survey comments on local footpaths and bridleways to the Parish Footpath Warden for appropriate action.**

FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

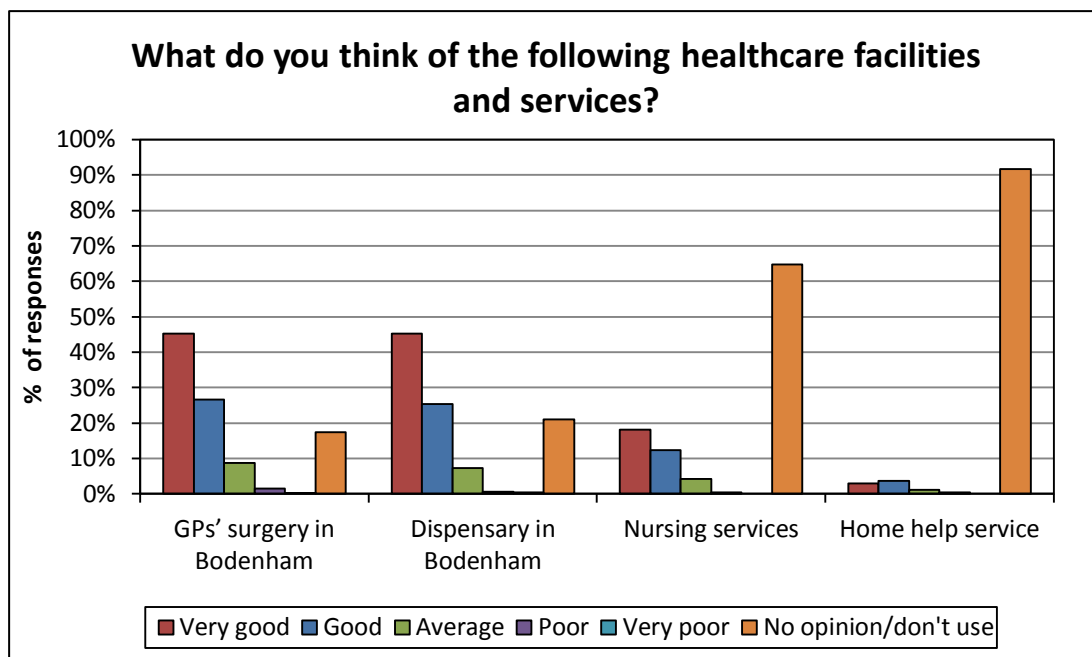
- **Organise sailing, canoeing and fishing ‘taster’ sessions in early Summer 2012.**
- **Request the re-issue of the Bodenham Ramblers’ footpath booklet.**
- **Publish details of local walks on the Parish Website in the form of leaflets which users can download.**

Long Term

- **Construct an outdoor fitness trail.**

HEALTHCARE

Nearly 500 people responded to the questions about the provision of healthcare in Bodenham and the overall impression given was that local residents are healthy and satisfied with the services provided. For example, around 70% of those who responded to the Survey assessed the GPs’ Surgery and Dispensary as ‘Very Good’ or ‘Good’ and only some 8% as ‘Average’ or lower (the remainder having ‘No opinion’).



Healthcare Services at the Bodenham Surgery

With regard to how services at the Bodenham Surgery could be improved, the Survey suggested more day opening times, and evening or Saturday opening, together with an opportunity for individuals to make their own suggestions. Of the 279 responses to the question, 59% wanted evening opening, slightly fewer (55%) wanted Saturday opening, and 41% wanted more daytime opening. The clear overall impression, therefore, was that residents would like the GP Practice to be more accessible in terms of providing appointments at times convenient to patients.

Respondents were also given a list of additional healthcare services that they might like to see made available at the Surgery. These were physiotherapy, chiropody, alternative medicine, mental health support / counselling, and support for carers. There was also an opportunity on the survey form to suggest other services. About two-thirds of respondents who answered the question (265 in all) wanted to see physiotherapy provided at the Surgery. Chiropody also received support from the majority of those who responded (62%), while 29% wanted support for carers, 23% alternative medicine and 18% support/counselling services for people with mental health difficulties.

Most of these and other suggested changes will depend on co-operation by the Practice, but the GPs will be fund-holders and supposed to take into account the needs and wishes of their patients. Furthermore, some improvements should be fairly quick and simple to implement. For example:

- Arrangements have already been made for repeat prescriptions to be ordered by e-mail.
- Regular meetings have already been set up at which carers can meet and receive help and advice. It should also be simple, where necessary, to organise additional carer support with Herefordshire Carers Support. Furthermore, there is information in the Surgery and the Practice Team can be consulted about early carer identification and registration.

- It might be worth investigating the possibility of Age UK providing a Foot Clinic in the Village on a regular basis if there is enough demand – possibly at the Siward James Centre or the Parish Hall. This would be by referral by the GP and paid for by the people using the service. There would probably be a rental charge for the venue, but this might be met by the Practice.

Other Services

Regarding the other two services specifically mentioned in the Survey:

- 35% of respondents (167 out of 475) used nursing services, with 30% rating them as 'Very Good' or 'Good' and only 2 individuals regarding them as 'Poor'.
- 92% of those who replied (420 out of 458) expressed no opinion on home help services. However, the 38 (8%) who did rated it as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

This latter statistic in a Parish with an older population either means that the general level of health is very good, or possibly that many people are relying on family members to help them. Putting this into the context of cut backs and the new Health Care system, where people will not be admitted to hospital but will be cared for at home, emphasises the need for better support for carers mentioned above.

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- **The facility to request repeat prescriptions by e-mail has been implemented.**
- **Provision of a physiotherapy service in Bodenham has been investigated and found to not be viable.**
- **Regular meetings are being held at which carers can obtain advice and support.**

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- **Additional Support for carers through Herefordshire Carers' Support is being arranged.**
- **Possible longer opening hours for the Bodenham Surgery are under review.**

FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

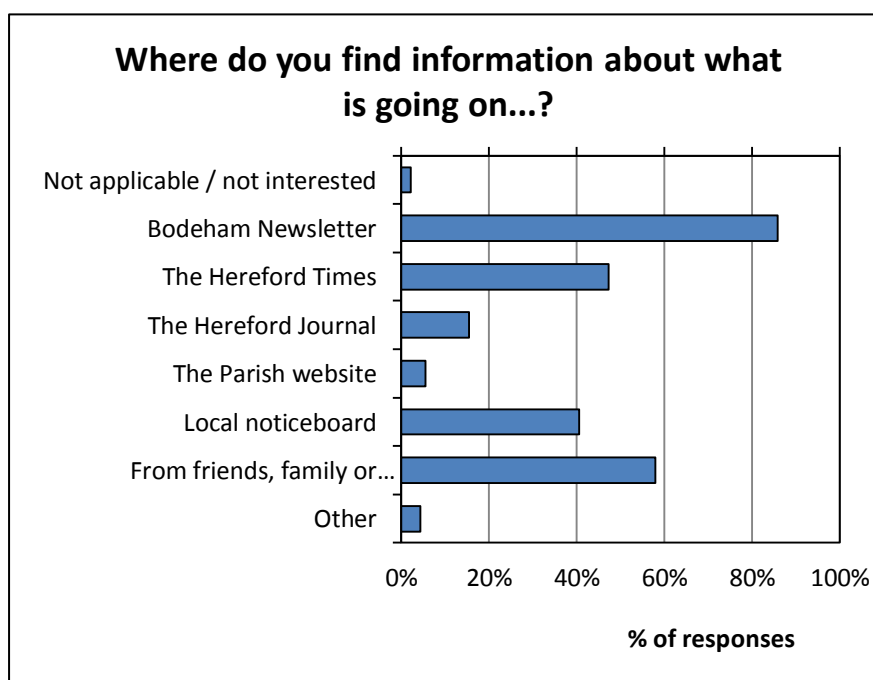
- **In partnership with Age UK establish a regular foot clinic in the Village.**

COMMUNICATION

At the time of the Survey the Parish Website, www.bodenhamparish.org.uk, which had been launched on 3 July 2010, had been 'live' for just over three months. More than half the respondents (198 or 68%) who answered the question had heard about it and 87 residents (18%) had looked at it. Respondents were then asked for ideas on how it could be developed or improved. Thirty-two provided suggestions on how it could be developed or improved, many of which are already covered by the Website. Some respondents sounded a note of caution, pointing out the need to regularly maintain the information on the website and not allow it to become out of date; others found it difficult to find on the internet or to navigate or unappealing in appearance or style. All the comments are already under consideration in Phase 2 of the Website Project.



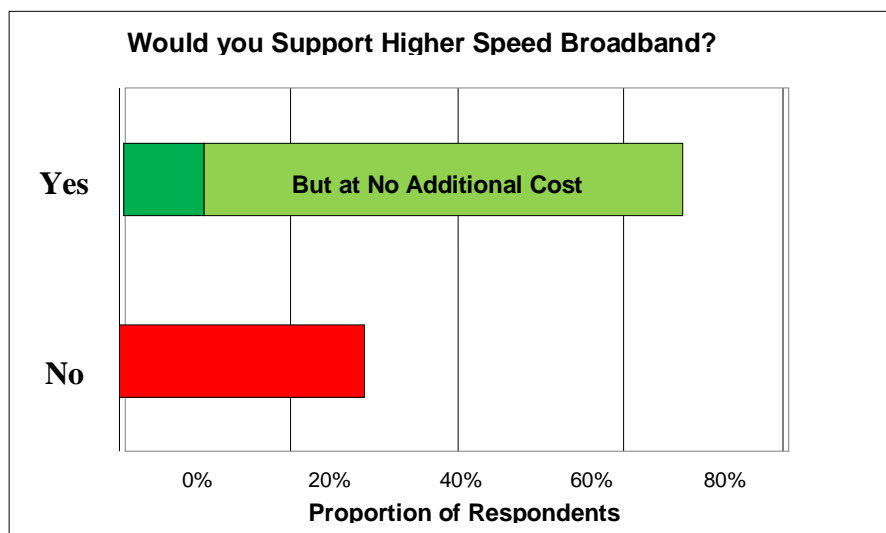
Following on from this, respondents were asked where they got their information about what is going on in the Parish. The Bodenham Newsletter was the most popular source, cited by 86% of respondents. Over half (58%) picked up information by word of mouth from friends, family and neighbours. The "Hereford Times" informed 47% and local notice boards provided information for 41%.



There did not seem to be much interest in having more notice boards around the Parish; only 15% of respondents wanted some, while 41% did not and even more (44%) had ‘No opinion’

On the subject of where any new notice boards should be located, the places most frequently mentioned were outside the Parish Hall, the Garage, the Post Office, on the Moor and at the bus stops. Some respondents commented on the need to keep notice boards up to date and well maintained and this is clearly important for the Parish’s public image, and that of the Parish Council in particular.

When respondents were asked if they would support a higher speed broadband to the Parish, 56% said that they would support it if it did not cost them anything and a further 12% would be prepared to pay for such a service. 32% were not interested.



Turning from means of communication to the way decisions are made and communicated in the Parish, the Survey asked residents whether or not they felt that they could influence decisions affecting Bodenham. Opinion was fairly evenly balanced among the 476 (90%) who responded. About half did not express an opinion either way, whilst 27% either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they could influence decisions and 22% were of the opposing view. However, only 4% of respondents said that they attend meetings of the Parish Council regularly and a further 16% stated that they did so occasionally. Of the great majority (80%) who never attend council meetings, nearly a third (30%) replied that they did not realise that they could attend, almost as many (29%) said that they were too busy, 19% said that they were not interested and for 16% the meetings were not at a convenient time. 61 respondents gave ‘Other’ reasons, the most frequent being that they had only recently moved into the Parish or were prevented from attending by poor health or old age.

Ninety-two respondents suggested ways of making it possible for residents to influence local decisions more effectively. These included greater use of the internet to host discussions on the Website, for online voting, to provide more information, or to e-mail residents. Others liked the use of questionnaires to elicit opinion, thought Parish Councillors should be more pro-active in talking to local people to find out their views, wanted more informal meetings (probably similar to the ‘Planning for Real’ events), or felt that there should be a suggestions box in the Parish Hall.

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- **Notice boards have been provided in the two new bus shelters.**

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- **Tidy up all the Parish Council noticeboards.**
- **Continue to support the Bodenham *Newsletter* as a key medium for communication in the Parish.**

FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

- **Set up a generic e-mail address for the Parish.**
- **Complete Phase 2 of the Parish Website Project.**
- **Establish a system for the regular monitoring and maintenance of Parish Council noticeboards.**

Long Term

- **Upgrade, or where necessary replace, all Parish Council notice boards.**

BUSINESSES

In a special study, separate from the main Survey, the owners or managers of 20 local businesses were interviewed and asked, first, what advantages there were to their business from being located in Bodenham. The majority had either inherited a business already sited here, or started the business after they had become a resident. Hamwyn Joinery, Barnstormers and Rivers Media were exceptions to this and for them the location of their business was secondary to getting the space required at an affordable cost. Furthermore, apart from the Post Office and Hair Affair II, most of the businesses had the bulk of their trade from outside the Village. The great majority of interviewees did not therefore see any great advantage to being located in Bodenham as opposed to any other similar village location, although having good link roads, the A417 and A49, was a bonus, as was having a local post office.

In response to a question about obstacles to the growth of businesses in Bodenham, most of the firms replied that there was room for further growth if they wanted it. However, many of the firms were very happy with their existing size. For those who wished to expand there seemed to be three issues:

- Their current location would not permit them to expand, and the costs of moving to a larger location would negate any benefit from the increase in the size of the premises.

- Those who did have the room to expand said that the cost of hiring additional staff, with the increase in salary and attendant costs, would again negate any benefit from the expansion.
- For those who worked alone (for example, providing garden services or repairing domestic appliances) the cost of an ‘apprentice’ was not only not cost-effective but counter-productive since their businesses had been built on personal service and their clients only wished to deal with the “main man”.

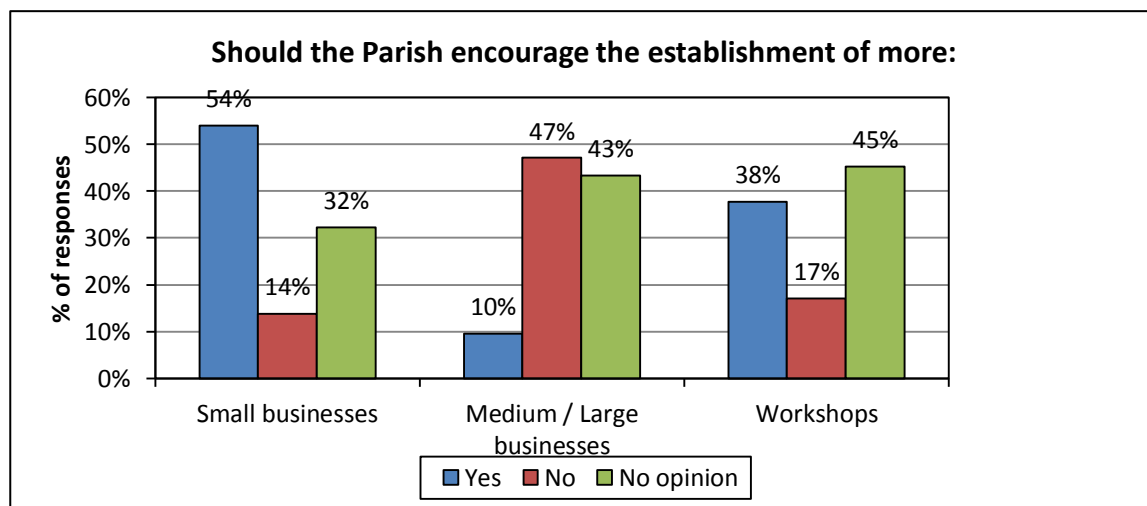


When asked what would improve their businesses’ operation in Bodenheim, there were a number of suggestions, most of which would require action at Herefordshire Council, rather than local, level. These included a lower Council Tax for businesses, reduced Council Rates for the collection of rubbish from ‘local’ small businesses, direct financial help to promote local businesses, more flexibility from the Planning Authorities over the granting of Planning Permission for additional buildings where space was already available, and help from the Planning Authorities in cases where music and TV performance licences would be required to widen the scope of the business. It was felt that the Tourist Department of Herefordshire Council had not taken sufficient interest in, or supported, small local enterprises. In particular, the cost of advertising in Herefordshire tourist literature was regarded as very expensive and publication was often so late in the season as to negate any possible benefit from the outlay. Similarly the cost of, and restrictions on, signage from the main A417 – both official brown tourist signs and firms’ own signs – were seen as unreasonable.

Turning to the local economy, interviewees were asked how robust they thought it was in the face of the country’s general financial difficulties. All agreed that the situation might get much worse before it improved, but most said that they thought that the Parish was a fairly affluent one and, as such, they had not so far been too badly affected. As already mentioned, however, many local businesses rely far more on passing trade and on customers from outside Bodenheim than on local residents and even these had not noticed too much of a reduction.

The 20 firms covered in the study were only a sample of the businesses based in the Parish, but these alone contribute substantially to local employment. Together they employed a total of 97 people, of whom 80 are full time employees and 17 part-time, and almost all of whom live either in the Parish itself or within 5 miles of the Village; the only employee living further away than this being from Stoke Lacy.

In the main Survey for the Parish Plan residents were asked their opinions on the development of more enterprises, in the form of small businesses or large/ medium businesses or workshops, within the Parish. Out of 469 respondents there was a (54%) majority “Yes” vote for the Parish to encourage more small businesses with an opposing (47%) “No” for medium or large businesses, although in both cases a large number of respondents sat on the “No opinion” fence. Although there was also mostly “No opinion” for workshops, there was more support for them (38%) than against (17%).



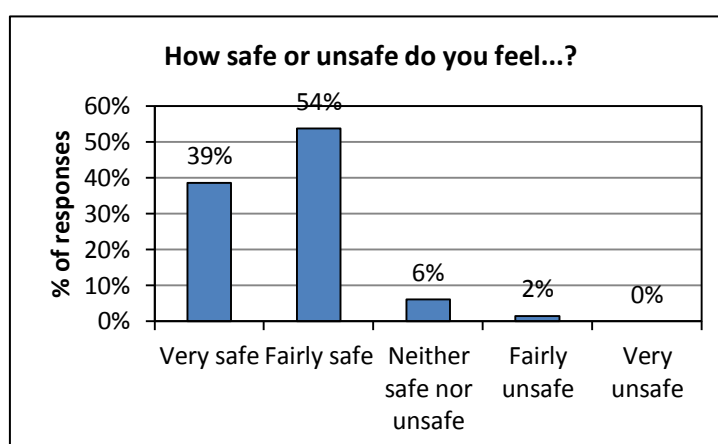
Regarding the sites for any such businesses and workshops, the vast majority of respondents gave positive answers and suggestions, such as expanding the existing business sites and converting unused buildings, as well as the need to have access to the main A417 road and to avoid areas on the flood plain. Again, the most preferred sites were the Parish Hall (7), England’s Gate (6), the Moor (4) and the village centre (5).

In summary, the Survey showed that local residents were generally well disposed to the idea of more small businesses and, to a lesser degree, workshops being established in the Parish. However, the number of negative and ‘No opinion’ responses, when taken together (46% for small businesses and 55% for workshops) mean that the Survey provides no firm mandate for action, even without considering the costs such action would entail.

CRIME AND SAFETY

93% of all residents who responded to the Survey consider Bodenham to be a fairly safe or very safe place to live.

	No.	%
Very safe	198	39%
Fairly safe	276	54%
Neither safe nor unsafe	31	6%
Fairly unsafe	8	2%
Very unsafe	0	0%
Total responses	513	
Not answered	16	
Total survey responses	529	



When asked what they thought of the local police service, about a quarter of respondents (28%) had no opinion, a similar proportion (26%) thought it was "Good" or "Very Good" and the largest proportion (31%) thought it was "Average". A smaller proportion (15%) thought it was "Poor" or "Very Poor". Most of the adverse comments were to the effect that there was rarely a police presence in the Parish.

236 respondents (48%) said that they would like a Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be reintroduced, although a similar proportion (43%) answered "Don't Know" and 9% were against it. However, 132 people said they would be willing to help set up and run a scheme.

The great majority (75%) of respondents were not aware of the existing Rural Watch scheme, but 131 residents were on e-mail and would like to be part of the scheme (subject to their being eligible under its rules).

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- **Rural Watch has been publicised in the *Newsletter* and on the Parish Website.**

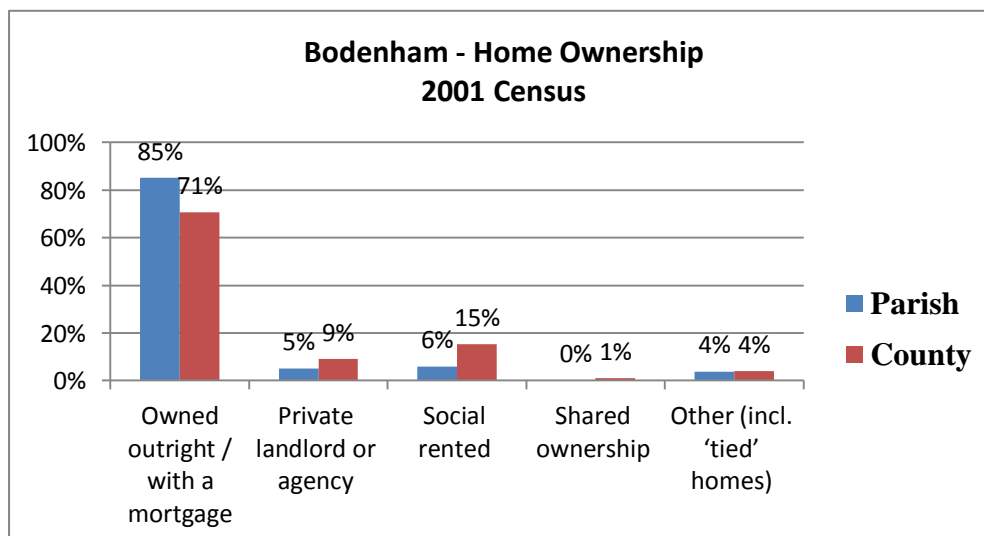
FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

- **Re-establish the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Bodenham.**
- **Enrol on Rural Watch all those who wish to take part.**

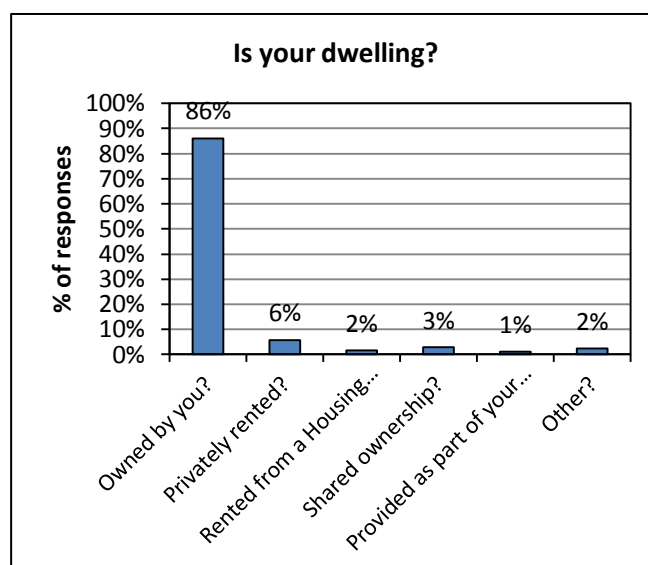
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

The chart below shows the state of home ownership in Bodenham as it was ten years ago compared with the County as a whole, and there is no reason to suppose that it has altered greatly over the past decade.



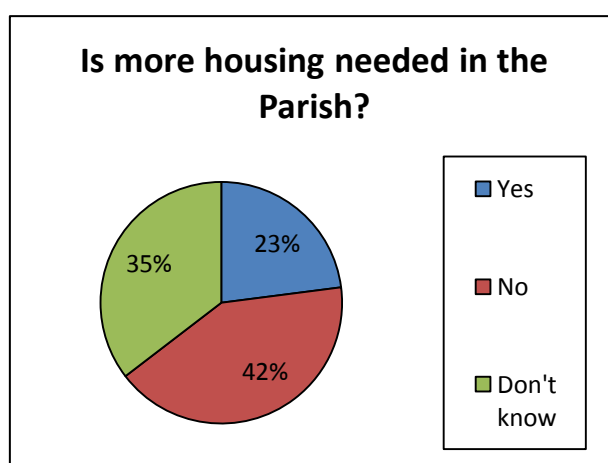
This is borne out by the responses to the Parish Plan Survey which are summarised in the table and graph below

Is your dwelling:	Number	%
Owned by you?	429	86%
Privately rented?	29	6%
Rented from a Housing Association?	8	2%
Shared ownership?	14	3%
Provided as part of your employment?	6	1%
Other?	12	2%
Total responses	498	
Not answered	31	
Total survey responses	529	



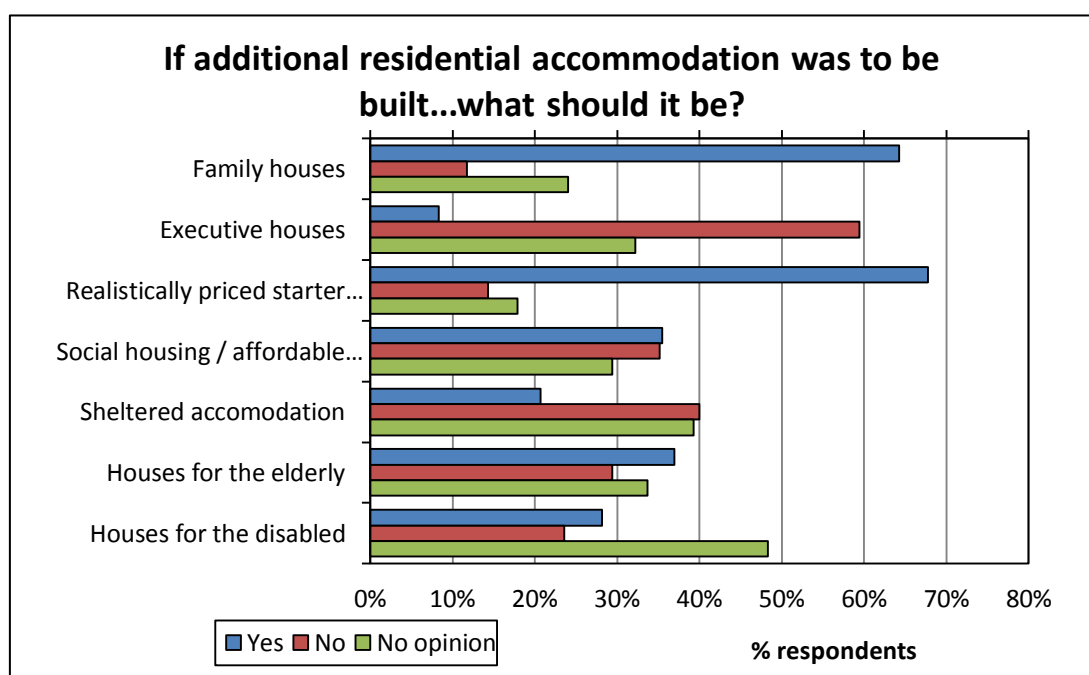
The majority of respondents (86%) were owner-occupiers, 14% occupied their dwellings *via* renting, shared ownership or tied housing. (There are only 4 houses in Bodenham which are technically in shared ownership, so it is possible that, since 14 residents said that their houses fell into that category, some respondents misunderstood the term “shared ownership”). Most of the 2% (12 individuals) who ticked the “Other” option were living with family members of a different generation and this may tend to support the Housing Needs Survey carried out in January 2008 which indicated that there were 9 families living in inappropriate accommodation in the Village. The responsibility for ensuring that the affordable housing needs are met lies with the Local Authority, working in partnership with the Parish Council and a range of housing providers.

A high proportion (466 or 88%) of the respondents answered the question which asked whether more housing was required in the Parish. Most (42%) thought that no more housing was needed and a smaller proportion (23%) thought that it was, while about a third of respondents (35%) did not know.



The Survey went on to ask, if additional residential accommodation was to be built, what type it should be. Despite the large number of respondents who said that no extra housing was needed, well over 50% of all (529) respondents went on to give their opinions as to what type of residential accommodation they would like to see built in the Parish.

The most requested types of property were starter homes and family houses, with a lesser demand for homes for the elderly. Demand for social and affordable homes resulted in an indecisive, almost equal, response between those ‘For’, ‘Against’ and ‘Don’t Know’. Conversely, respondents voted in a majority against executive houses and sheltered accommodation, together with a “No opinion” majority vote for houses for the disabled – which presumably reflects a low number of disabled residents in the Parish. Of the 24 respondents that commented for “Other” types of accommodation, only 9 gave any positive feedback. There were some suggestions that low cost options could include houses for rent or shared ownership schemes and some concern that development of specialist housing for the elderly or disabled in a village setting could lead to social isolation. There were comments that Bodenham is big enough and that further development should be to satisfy local needs. The points were also made that Bodenham needed a younger population and that the existing drainage system already lacked capacity and might not cope with more housing.



When asked about possible sites for additional housing, 182 responses were recorded, of which 25 were negative, emphasising their previous concerns. The most preferred sites were the Parish Hall/ England’s Gate (29), the Moor (27) and Bodenham Village (17).

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

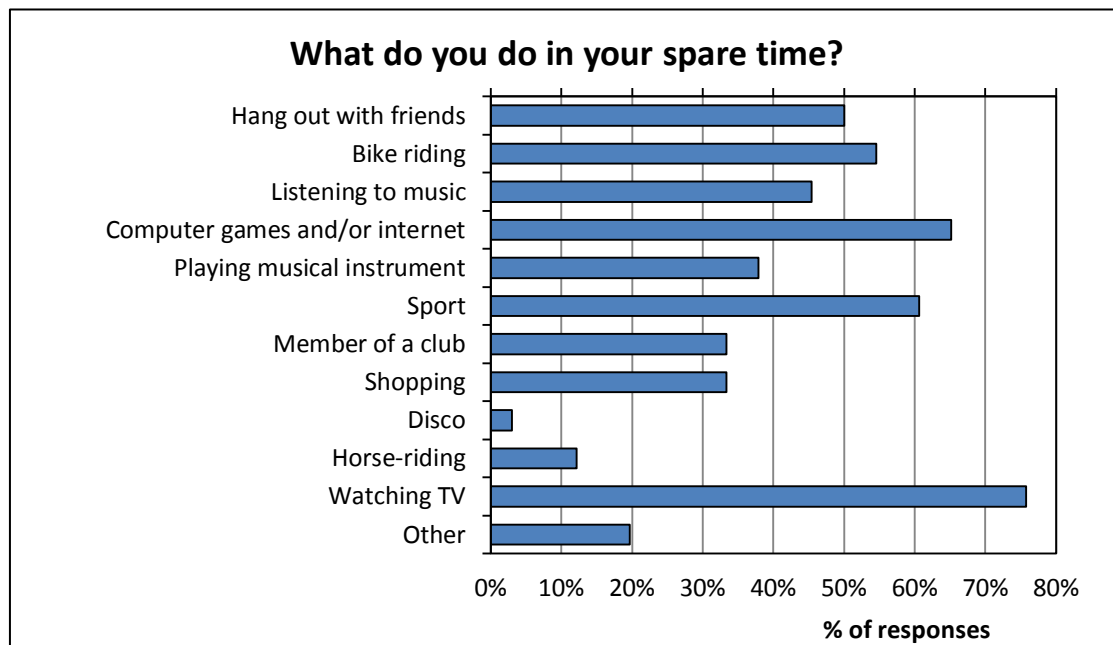
- **A Housing Needs Survey has been carried out and potential sites for affordable housing identified.**

YOUNG PEOPLE

In reply to a question about how they spent their time 50 out of the 66 respondents (76%) said watching television, followed by playing computer games and/ or surfing the internet (65%). Sixty-one per cent played sport, 55% went bike riding and 12% were horse riders. Half would “hang out with friends”. 45% listened to music and 38% played a musical instrument. A third

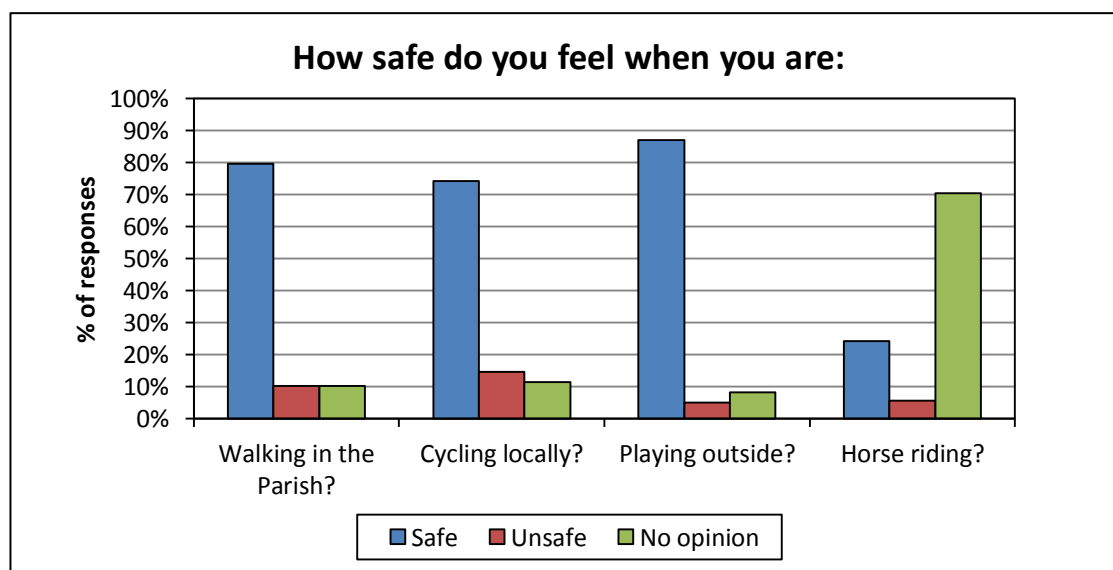
were members of a club and a similar proportion went shopping. Only 3% ticked “disco”. The details are shown in the chart below.

In the “Other” box on the form, 36 mentioned the sports they played. The most popular were swimming (13), football (10), rugby / tag rugby (6), tennis (5) and dancing (5). (It is clear that in response to the Adult Questionnaire some parents submitted ideas for improvements for their children as well as themselves – see pages 22 - 23 above).



The great majority said that they *mostly* spent their time at home or in Bodenham, although 30% also quoted Hereford and 17% mentioned Leominster and other places, such as Bromyard, Kingsland and even Shrewsbury.

Regarding travel to meet friends locally, there is a heavy reliance on lifts with family or friends (70%), with walking (35%), cycling (27%) and the bus (20%) as the next most quoted alternatives. When travelling to other towns the reliance on lifts from family members and friends becomes even greater, with buses the only significant alternative. (There were supplementary comments that buses are expensive and infrequent).



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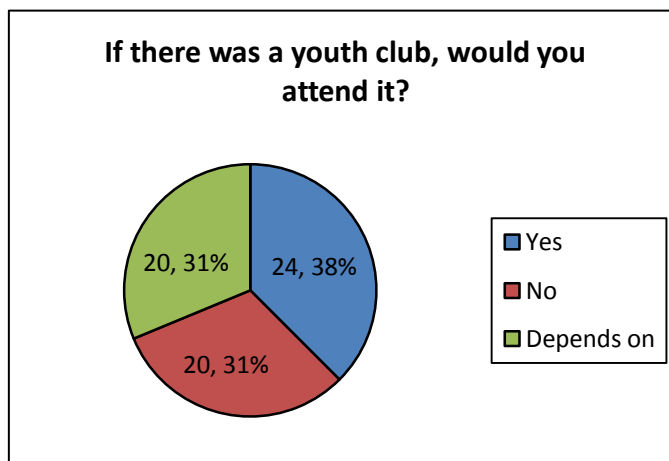
majority of young people felt safe when walking in the Parish or cycling locally or playing outside. There were minorities of children who felt unsafe or who had no opinion. When asked why they felt unsafe and what should be done to help them feel safer, there were 14 comments, of which all except one were concerned with road safety and speeding by cars and tractors.

Turning to education, 40% of respondents went to school/college in Hereford and 32% in Bodenham. They get there mainly *via* lifts from family, but the bus at 32% is the next highest mode of transport.

Part of the Young People's Survey concentrated on leisure facilities and activities. An adventure playground (59%) and film shows (58%) got the most votes, but 49% would be interested in a bike/ BMX trail and 44% in kick-about or play areas.

Twenty-four (38%) gave their unequivocal support to the idea of a youth club, with a further 20 (31%) offering qualified support, whilst another 20 (31%) would not be interested. The most popular activity at a youth club would be table tennis, which was supported by 65% of respondents. Nearly as many (61%) would like to see arts/ craft/ music and dance workshops. Nearly as many again (59%) were potentially interested in water sports. Pool table (47%), sports in general (41%), coffee bar (39%), Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme (29%) and Board Games (29%) were less popular.

	No.	%
Yes	24	38%
No	20	31%
Depends on	20	31%
Total responses	64	
Not answered	2	
Total survey responses	66	



When asked what sports they would like to see organised through a youth club, 18 suggestions were made. These included football (6), cricket/ quick cricket (4), rugby/ tag rugby (4), rounders (4), netball (4), tennis (4), badminton (3), hockey (3), basketball (3) and climbing walls, dance, dodge ball and swimming (one each).

A majority of children (80%) wanted to see activities organised in Bodenham during the holidays. Out of a list of possible activities for this, the most popular was water sports (56%), followed by art/ craft/ drama and music workshops (53%), tennis (49%), sailing (49%), table tennis (40%), pool table (36%), and fishing (35%).

ACTIONS ALREADY COMPLETED

- **Half term 'taster' sessions for young people were held in the Parish Hall on two days in October 2011.**

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- **Advertise the leisure activities available for young people in Bodenham and surrounding areas.**
- **Identify local residents interested in:**
 - **Forming a sub-group to organize and run a Youth Club in the Parish.**
 - **Taking forward other ideas for young people's activities.**
- **Provide a slide for the play area.**

FUTURE ACTIONS

Medium Term

- **Arrange 'taster' sailing, canoeing and BMX riding sessions for young people during the Easter and summer holidays.**
- **Arrange film shows for young people during the school holidays.**

Long Term

- **Organise and run a Youth Club in the Parish.**
- **Set up a kickabout area in the village.**

BODENHAM AS A PLACE TO LIVE

Finally, in the responses to the Young People's Survey there were a lot of comments on what the respondents liked about living in Bodenham which generally reflected that they appreciated living in the beautiful countryside, that it was quiet, peaceful and friendly, with lots of space and with a playground, pub, doctors and tennis courts.

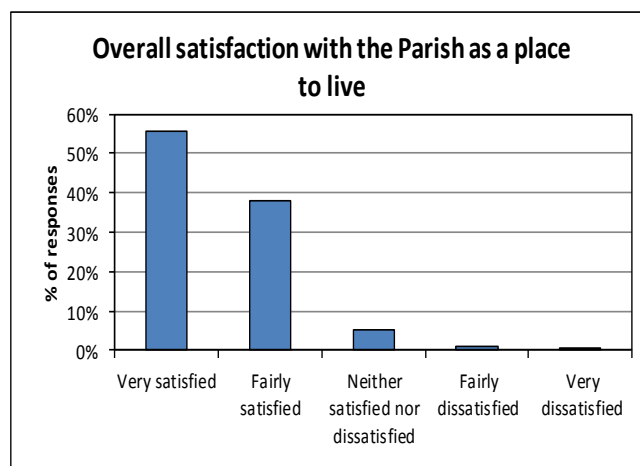
When asked about what they didn't like about living in Bodenham, the main comments were that it was boring and there was nothing to do,



together with concerns about speeding and issues regarding the buses. Conversely, ideas about what would make Bodenheim Parish better included a variety of suggestions which hinged around more facilities and activities, a café and some speeding/ traffic calming measures.

Of the 505 respondents who answered the question on the Parish as a place to live in the Adult Survey, the overwhelming majority (94%) were “fairly satisfied” or “very satisfied” with Bodenheim. A small proportion, 5%, did not have a definite view one way or another, and only 5 residents were “fairly dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied”. The results are displayed in the table and bar chart below. There did not seem to be any common attribute or strong feelings about any particular issue to distinguish those who were satisfied from the handful who were not.

Overall, how satisfied are you with the Parish as a place to live?	Number	%
Very satisfied	281	56%
Fairly satisfied	192	38%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	27	5%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	1%
Very dissatisfied	1	0%
Total responses	505	
Not answered	24	
Total survey responses	529	



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