Bodenham Parish Plan Adult questionnaire report

Issue 2.0

Herefordshire Council Research Team March 2011





Working in partnership for the people of Herefordshire

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Introduction

As part of the development of a Community Led Plan for the Parish of Bodenham, the steering group of 15 residents carried out a residents' questionnaire in October 2010, inviting opinions on a wide variety of aspects of life in the parish; public highways, public transport, environment, flood alleviation, local facilities, leisure, healthcare, communication, crime and safety and housing and development. 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 left at dwellings where no personal contact could be made. The letter contained a contact number for obtaining extra questionnaires. 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.

Survey results were compiled and analysed by Herefordshire Council Research Team on behalf of the Parish Plan steering group.

Presentation of results

Where percentages are used, they are presented to the nearest whole number. The "base" is the sample base from which the percentages are calculated. In most questions, the sample base is all respondents to that particular question. Any variation from this is noted and explained in the main body of the report. Note that if respondents could select more than one answer to a particular question, the percentages may add up to more than 100%.

Charts are included for some questions to aid in visualisation of results.

Answers to questions requiring a free text answer are not included in this report, only the number of respondents. The comments provided by respondents can be found in the accompanying free text comments appendix and in Excel workbook, which has a page for each question concerned. However the free text answers have been analysed and the main points emerging are given in this report.

Results

There were a total of 529 respondents to the survey.

Highways

Q1. What do you think of the maintenance of road surfaces in the Parish?

All but 5 of the respondents answered this question. A small majority (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". The results are displayed in the graph and table below:



Residents in the more densely populated parts of the parish, ie Bodenham Moor, Bowley Lane / Isle of Rhea or Bodenham Village, were *less* likely to have a poor opinion than those who live in Maund Bryan or other parts of the parish where over a third of residents classified road maintenance as "poor" or "very poor". Younger adults were nearly twice as likely to think road maintenance was ""good"" or "very "good" than those aged over 45, 35% compared with 18%.

Respondents mentioned several roads as having a particularly poor surface; the A417 through the village to the junction with the A49, Millcroft Road, Bowley Lane, Brockington Road, Chapel Lane, Rowberry Lane, Dunfield Lane, Ketch Lane, Holbatch Lane, Smeadles Lane, Vern Lane, Woodhouse Lane and the minor lanes to Maund Bryan. Mention was made of the insubstantial nature of some of the road maintenance, leading to short term improvements only, and the requirement for major engineering. Some comments were received on the hazards to cyclists of pot holes. There were also comments on damage caused by HGVs and farm vehicles.

Q2. What do you think of the maintenance of hedges, road verges, ditches and drains?

515 of the 529 respondents expressed an opinion. In general, 45% thought that maintenance was average, 24% "good" or "very good" but 31% thought it was "poor" or "very poor".

The results are probably worse than in the first question on maintenance of road surfaces as several different aspects of maintenance were covered and poor perception of the maintenance on any one of them would lead to a negative grading overall.

There were no discernable differences in opinion between residents in different areas of the parish.

The results are displayed in the table and graph following.

What do you think of the maintenance of hedges, road verges, ditches and drains?	Number	%	50
Very good	8	2%	4(
Good	111	22%	30 Junes 20
Average	233	45%	espo
Poor	126	24%	5 20
Very poor	37	7%	× 10
Total responses	515		
Not answered	14		(
Total survey responses	529		



Several comments were made about hedge maintenance (or lack of it). In particular, there were complaints about clippings and thorns not been cleared off the road after hedge trimming and several respondents mentioned the overgrown vegetation along the A417 which forces vehicles into the middle of the highway. Other particular spots where hedge work is required are Siward James, Ketch Lane, the hedge between Ashgrove Road and Baches, the corner of Woodhouse Lane, and Millcroft Lane particularly the junction with Brockington Road where visibility to traffic is impeded. However, one respondent remarked that hedge flailing starts too early and is carried out too frequently.

There were fewer comments about the state of the road verges. Several respondents mentioned the damage to verges caused by farm vehicles. One respondent pointed out the problem wheelchair users have when negotiating steep kerbs. The verges along the A417 were mentioned as needing attention, as were those in Church Road, the road leading to the school, the kerbs at Bodenham Moor where weeds and grasses grow unchecked, and the verge along Millcroft Brook.

If the number of comments is an indicator, residents felt more strongly about the maintenance of ditches and drains. Many felt that poor maintenance was a general problem across the parish but there were some particular sites mentioned; the A417, Hereford Road, Brockington Road, Chapel Lane, Bowley Lane, Millbrook Lane, Moorcroft Road, Orchard Close, Sycamore Close and around Maund Bryan. There was praise for the work done by the Flood Protection Group in clearing ditches, and culverts but some castigation for farmers who did not clear mud their vehicles deposited on roads. One or two commented that spoil excavated from ditches is dumped on the roads, thus narrowing them. One consequence of poor maintenance was the collection of surface water in Chapel Lane which makes pedestrian movement difficult.

Q3. If you have particular concerns about the maintenance of road surfaces, drains, etc, please specify the issue and location.

Overall there were 169 comments on the maintenance of road surfaces, verges, hedges, drains and ditches. These are listed verbatim in a separate appendix but have been summarised in the preceding sections.

Q4. Would you support the Parish Council employing a local contractor to maintain hedges, ditches and drains, trim verges, and repair fences, etc instead of Herefordshire Council? (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).

Of the 511 respondents who answered this question, one-fifth did not express an opinion. Just under half, 46% supported the scheme; just over a third (34%) would not give it support. These results are shown in

tabular and graphical format on the next page. There was no request in the survey form for comments on this issue.

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	



Q5. What do you think of the standard of winter gritting and snow clearance on roads through the Parish?

Of the 525 residents who responded to the question about gritting of main roads, 57% thought it was "good" or "very good" and only 9% thought it was "poor" or "very poor". The converse opinion prevailed about the gritting of minor roads; 8% thought it was "good" or very "good" and 56% thought it was "poor" or very "poor". These results are displayed in tabular format graphically below.

What do you think of the standard of winter gritting and snow	On main roads		On minor roads	
clearance on roads through the Parish?	Number	%	Number	%
Very good	50	10%	6	1%
Good	249	47%	34	7%
Average	171	33%	149	30%
Poor	31	6%	177	35%
Very poor	4	1%	107	21%
No opinion	20	4%	26	5%
Total responses	525		499	
Not answered	4		30	
Total survey responses	529		529	



Residents of Bodenham village were more likely to think that gritting of minor roads was "poor" or worse – 67% compared with 56% of the Parish as a whole.

Residents of Bodenham Moor were less likely to have an unfavourable opinion of the standard of gritting on minor roads, 51% thought it was "poor" or "very poor".

None of the respondents from Maund Bryan thought the winter gritting of minor roads was "good" or very "good".

Q6. Are more salt/ grit bins needed?

A high proportion of respondents (39%) had no opinion on this issue, but of the remainder twice as many thought more salt / grit bins were needed than not. These results are shown in tabular format and graphically below.



Residents were asked where they thought more bins were required. 165 suggestions were received. These are listed in a separate appendix. Broadly speaking, 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.

Q7. Are there any places in the Parish where you think road safety is a particular matter for concern?

A substantial number of respondents, 160 of the 529 parishioners who returned survey forms did not answer this particular question. Of the 369 residents who did answer the question, 48 expressed "no opinion". But 71% of those that expressed an opinion thought there were places in the parish where road

safety is a particular matter for concern. 17% thought that there were no places for particular concern. These results are summarised in the table and pie chart overleaf.

Respondents were asked to consider the seven roads in the village that traffic was most likely to use and to indicate where, if at all, along these roads there were road safety concerns and what their concerns were. Some also put forward possible solutions. The roads were the A417, Chapel Lane, The Moor, Brockington Road, Millcroft Road, Ketch Lane, Bodenham Village. Knowledge of other hazards was also requested. The full list of comments is given in a separate appendix but they are summarised on the following page.

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	369	
Not answered	160	
Total survey responses	529	

A417

There were 184 comments about the speed at which the traffic travels along this road, both generally where the road conditions are unsuitable for high speed, and within the built up area where the 40 mph speed limit is often ignored. Allied to speeding, other "poor" driving practices are an issue. There was mention of dangerous overtaking by the garage – it was suggested that white lines could help prevent this. Another problem, associated with speeding is the lack of concern for other road users particularly where there are no footpaths.

Some respondents felt that road design issues were compromising road user safety. There were several mentions of an accident black spot where drivers lose control approaching Maund Common and it was suggested that a speed limit or a "slow" sign would help improve matters. Another blind bend mentioned by one respondent was as Saffron's Cross.

The lack of clear line of sight of approaching traffic on the main road for drivers emerging onto the A417 at various junctions is an issue. These have been detailed further on in this section for the adjoining roads that are in the list on the survey form. Other roads mentioned by respondents but not specifically included on the survey form included Woodhouse Lane / Caldervale where the mirror was thought to give a distorted view of the position of approaching traffic and which did not reflect in wet or frosty conditions. Other exits with "poor" visibility were at the Parish Hall, Watery Lane, Pencombe Road, and the Dunfield junction.

Some residents thought there was a problem with traffic turning from the A417 onto the minor road to Sutton St. Nicholas at England's Gate, as the entry is too narrow for large vehicles to negotiate safely without crossing to the opposite side of the road.

One respondent felt that the overhanging trees on the A417 between the village and the A49 junction were forcing traffic to drive too far out into the centre of the road for safety; another respondent felt that the traffic at the junction of the A417 with the A49 should be controlled by lights.

There were 32 comments on safety issues as they affect pedestrians. Most commonly, respondents referred to the excessive speed of traffic using the A417 which created problems for pedestrians trying to cross the road, particularly at the parish hall. There were calls for a pedestrian crossing at the parish hall and extensions to the foot paths at England's Gate.

Chapel Lane

The most frequent comment about road safety in Chapel Lane was about the "poor" visibility, in both directions, for traffic emerging from the lane onto the A417. Cutting back overgrown vegetation in the summer would help, opined some respondents.

There were 30 complaints about the speed of traffic in Chapel Lane and requests for more control. The particular culprits appear to be agricultural vehicles and HGVs. Allied to going too fast, some respondents accused drivers of reckless overtaking, lack of concern for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, and "poor" lane discipline.

The lane seems to be used by heavy lorries for which it was not designed and satnav was blamed for directing drivers on the shortest route through the parish rather than on the most appropriate roads for large vehicles.

The Moor

There were 143 comments about road safety in The Moor. Ninety-nine of these related to excess traffic speed, especially in the vicinity of the post office. The 30 mph speed limit appears to be ignored. As with Chapel Lane, there was a feeling that heavy vehicles were using unsuitable roads as a short cut – again may be due to directions on satnav.

There were complaints about inconsiderate parking, particularly around the post office. This led to a narrowing of the road, which caused problems for traffic, and also caused impediments to visibility for both pedestrians and drivers. Cars parked on pavements were a particular issue with pedestrians.

Some pedestrians also felt the need for more footpaths, particularly to England's Gate.

Brockington Road

Speed was less of an issue but did receive six mentions. Of greater concern was some poor driving standards, particularly the failure of motorists to look carefully around them at the road junctions of Ashgrove Road with, Brockington Road and the cul-de-sacs off Ashgrove Road. Another complaint was parking along Brockington Road particularly in the vicinity of the Surgery, where it caused access and visibility to be obstructed. Parked cars also impeded line of sight at the junction of Brockington Road and Millcroft Road, where an additional problem was privately owned overgrown hedges which need cutting back to improve visibility.

Two pedestrians expressed regret at the lack of pavements and street lighting along Brockington Road.

Millcroft Road

There were 45 comments about traffic going too fast at various points in Millcroft Road, the finger was pointed particularly at drivers of agricultural vehicles and parents taking their children to school. One mother felt that parents were blamed wrongly for the speeding issues. Associated with speeding there were complaints about erratic driving and dangerous overtaking.

The problem of visibility at the junction with Brockington Road was highlighted in the section above.

Another problem is the narrowing of the road at the stream and it was suggested that warning signs should be erected to alert drivers of the hazard.

Some respondents perceived a need for a pavement, especially as Millcroft Road is on the route to school for children.

Ketch Lane

There were 68 comments about road safety in Ketch Lane; 24 of these mentioned speeding. All types of traffic were to blame but parents taking children to / from school and the drivers of agricultural vehicles and buses were particularly perceived to be at fault. Pedestrians felt vulnerable to speeding traffic due to the lack of pavements. It was suggested that speed limit signs might help slow traffic down.

Entry and exit at either end of Ketch Lane was considered unsafe. At the junction with the A417, drivers emerging from the lane cannot see fast approaching traffic on the main road, at the junction with Millcroft Road, poor visibility caused problems. This was partly due to the angle at which the roads meet but the problem was compounded by overgrown hedges. Apart from cutting back vegetation it was suggested that road markings, including a halt sign and a mirror, would help.

The Village

Respondents differed in what they interpreted as "The Village" and some comments were included in summaries of other roads if that was more appropriate.

As with other parts of the parish, speeding through the village was perceived to be a major problem with drivers of all types of vehicles seen as blameworthy, both during the day and at night. Suggestions to slow traffic down included speed signs at either end of the village and a 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of the school.

Visibility issues were mentioned – around the war memorial, at either end of the bridge and around the school where a hedge caused problems. One respondent suggested that painting white lines on the road either side of the bridge could help separate traffic streams.

Problems of road safety around the school were compounded by inconsiderate parking.

One respondent mentioned a problem with buses turning and blocking the road as they did so but this was not picked up by others.

Bowley Lane

Although not in the list of areas in the questionnaire, 17 respondents mentioned the problem of traffic going too fast in Bowley Lane as it is a narrow, twisting road and should, according to those respondents picking up the point, have a speed limit of less than 60mph. Widening the road at the brow of God Almighty Hill or banning HGVs were both suggested.

Dinmore Road

This road was not in the list but some respondents felt there were road safety issues that needed addressing. Again traffic going too fast for the road was perceived to be a problem. It was felt that a speed limit and some white lines to separate traffic streams at the railway bridge would encourage drivers to modulate speed and, hence, improve road safety.

Maund Common

Several respondents thought vehicles travelled too fast along narrow country roads.

Public transport

Q8. How often do you use the local bus service?

Most respondents, 59%, never use the local bus service and 27% only use it occasionally. 14% of respondents use it at least monthly, but only 1 respondent was a daily passenger. These results are shown in detail in the table and graph below. 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 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	



Q9. If you use the local bus where do you travel to? (Tick all that apply)

Nearly all users, 94%, took the bus to Hereford, a third travelled to Leominster, and 2% went to Marden. Some respondents used the bus to make connecting journeys to more distant towns and cities, particularly Ludlow.

If you use the local bus where do you travel to?	Number	%
Hereford	204	94%
Leominster	71	33%
Marden	4	2%
Other	10	5%
Total responses	217	
Not answered	312	
Total survey responses	529	



Q10. What do you think of the local bus service?

Overall 35% of respondents who answered this question felt that the bus service was "good" or "very good" and only 9% thought it was "poor" or "very poor". The details of the results are shown in the table on the next page.

What do you think of the local bus service	Number	%
Very good	61	13%
Good	105	22%
Average	87	18%
Poor	32	7%
Very poor	11	2%
No opinion	184	38%
Total responses	480	
Not answered	49	
Total survey responses	529	

Opinion on the bus service between regular users, ie those who were passengers monthly or more frequently, and occasional / non-users was divided. 78% of regular users thought the service was "good" or "very good" but only 27% of the occasional / non-users agreed. Conversely, only 3% of regular users thought the service was "poor" or "very poor" compared with 10% of the occasional / non-users. The differences between the two groups are shown in the following chart. All regular users had an opinion of some kind.



Q11. Would you use the local bus service more if: (Tick all that apply).

Two-hundred and fifty respondents answered this questions on incentives to use the bus service more. 117 respondents said they would use the bus service if it ran more frequently. Of these 117, 101 were currently non-users. Similarly, of the 63 who "ticked" that they would patronise the service more if the fares were cheaper, 58 are currently non-users.

In the "write in" part of the question, 13 respondents stated that they would only use the bus service if they were unable to drive.

Other changes mentioned that would also encourage greater patronage included: introduction of services to Maund Bryan, quicker services to Hereford and Leominster, buses that enabled people to meet work times, allowing dogs to be transported, and stops at the Railway Inn, Chapel Lane, Ashgrove.

Some of the comments confirmed the issues already identified when the questionnaire was devised and which are listed in the table below and illustrated in the bar chart.

Would you use the local bus service more if	Number	%
It was cheaper?	63	25%
It was more frequent?	117	47%
It went to more destinations?	58	23%
It was more reliable?	12	5%
There was better disability access?	10	4%
There were better bus shelters?	39	16%
It ran later in the evening?	69	28%
Other	62	25%
Total responses	250	
Not answered	279	
Total survey responses	529	



Amongst the "Other" reasons, were some text comments including a complaint about over-crowding on the Hereford bound bus after Marden, a wish for a bus stop to be hard standing rather than grass, a request for full timetables to be displayed, and a desire to see the Leominster bus continue to Ludlow.

The comments are all displayed in a separate appendix.

Q12. If you have children of school age, do they use the school/college bus service?

There is a school bus which travels from Hope under Dinmore, along the main Bodenham road and into the Primary School. There are no other school buses taking Primary aged children from the Bodenham area to any other Primary school. High School Pupils living in the Bodenham area have school transport to Earl Mortimer in Leominster, and Aylestone, Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and St Mary's RC High school in Hereford. College students (post 16) are also provided with transport assistance

to all the colleges in Hereford and should they wish to study a subject not available in Herefordshire, to the nearest college which does.

The following table summarises the responses to the question on usage of the school bus service.

Q12. If you have children of school age, do they use the school/college bus service?	Number	%
Yes	37	9%
No	55	14%
Not applicable	306	77%
Total responses	398	
Not answered	131	
Total survey responses	529	



Thirty-seven respondents had school age children that use the bus service to school or college. (55 respondents had children who *did not* use the bus service but, as the question did not distinguish between primary and secondary school age children, it is possible that many of these would only have children of primary school age and lived near the school)

Q12a. If you answered Yes, what do you think of the school/college bus service?

Nearly two-thirds of respondents whose children were users of the school bus service thought it was "good" or "very good", but 5 respondents thought it was "poor" or "very poor". A summary of the results is given in the table below.

If you answered Yes, what do you think of the school/college bus service?	Number	%
"Good" or Very good	24	65%
Average	8	22%
"Poor" or Very Poor	5	14%
Total responses	37	



Although only those who used the service and thought it was "poor" or "very poor" were invited to make suggestions on how it could be improved, 15 comments were made. These are listed in a separate appendix. They were more in the way of complaints than suggestions and included buses not getting children to the school on time, lack of a service to Bowley Lane and Maund Bryan, buses unable to pull in safely to allow children to embark and disembark (due to a barrier), and no reduction in charges for children who didn't need to use the service every day.

Environment

Q13. Do you think there is a litter and/or fly-tipping problem in the Parish?

More respondents, 219 (43%) felt this was not a problem than those who did, 147 respondents (29%). 149 (29%) did not have an opinion. The results are shown in tabular and pie-chart format below.

Do you think there is a litter and/or fly- tipping problem in the Parish?	Number	%
Yes	147	29%
No	219	43%
Don't know	149	29%
Total responses	515	
Not answered	14	
Total survey responses	529	



Those who thought there was a problem were invited to state where the problem was. 148 responses were made and these are listed in a separate appendix. There were too many different places to be summarised succinctly, ie if there is a problem it is widespread across the parish.

Q14. Would you be prepared to take part in local litter clearance initiatives?

43 respondents did not respond to this question. Of the remainder who did give an answer, 166 (34%) would be prepared to take part in local litter clearance initiatives. This is actually more than the number who thought there was a problem! However nearly double that number, 320, would *not* be willing to get involved in such initiatives. The results are shown in the table and pie chart below.

Would you be prepared to take part in local litter clearance initiatives?	Number	%
Yes	166	34%
No	320	66%
Total responses	486	
Not answered	43	
Total survey responses	529	



Q15. Do you think there is a dog mess problem in the Parish?

Respondents to this question were fairly evenly divided between those who thought there was a problem (31%), those who did not think there was a problem (34%) and those who did not have an opinion (35%). These results are shown in the table and pie chart below.

Q15. Do you think there is a dog mess problem in the Parish?	Number	%
Yes	160	31%
No	176	34%
Don't know	178	35%
Total responses	514	
Not answered	15	
Total survey responses	529	



Q16. Would you support the provision of dog litter bins in the Parish?

The number who would support the provision of dog litter bins in the parish was greatly in excess of the number who thought dog mess was a problem, as can seen from the table below. Overall, 52% of respondents would support the provision, half that proportion, 26%, would not and the remaining 22% did not know. These can be seen graphically in the pie chart below.

Would you support the provision of dog litter bins in the Parish?	Number	%	Would you support the provision of dog litter bins?
Yes	258	52%	126, 26%
No	110	22%	
Don't know	126	26%	Yes, 258, 52%
Total responses	494		SEN.
Not answered	35		No, 110,
Total survey responses	529		22%

Residents were asked where there was a problem and where dog litter bins should be located. 222 comments were received, not all direct answers to the question but relevant to the subject. These are listed in a separate appendix. Broadly speaking, the problem appears to be widespread on all residential and through roads in the parish but particularly around the village green, play area, parish hall, post office, church, the lakes, and surgery. 17 respondents made comments to the effect that dog owners should be more responsible and should clean up behind their dogs. Two commentators pertained to the problems of dogs being allowed to roam freely in fields – their presence disturbs wild life and compromises farm stewardship schemes, and their excrement is a danger to stock.

A few respondents did not want to see more bins around the parish; two pointed out that it was now legal to use ordinary litter bins for wrapped canine faeces.

The questionnaire then asked if respondents would be prepared to help empty dog litter bins regularly (qn 18) or to be prepared to take part in other dog mess clearance initiatives. As can be seen in the tables and graphs below, numbers were small when compared with the totality of respondents but probably sufficient to deal with dog mess in the main problem areas.

Would you be prepared to help empty the dog litter bins regularly?	Number	%
Yes	27	7%
No	336	93%
Total responses	363	
Not answered	166	
Total survey responses	529	



Would you be prepared to take part in other dog mess clearance initiatives?	Number	%
Yes	17	4%
No	422	96%
Total responses	439	
Not answered	90	
Total survey responses	529	



Q20. Apart from your views on Q13 - Q19, do you think that anything else needs to be done to improve the appearance of the Parish by:

Respondents were asked if anything else needs to be done to improve the appearance of the parish. Five suggestions were put forward on the survey form and a request was made for other ideas. The five suggestions put forward were: more flower beds, more trees, creating wild life friendly habitats, better hedgerow management, and installing better signs to the parish. Of these five suggestions, only "better hedgerow management" received support from more than half the respondents as can seen from the table and bar chart following. The need for better hedgerow management was reflected in some of the comments and echoes some of the road safety issues discussed earlier in this report. Opinion was fairly evenly divided on the other suggestion. 57 responses were received in the request for other ideas, but many of these were comments rather than additional suggestions. The list of comments is in a separate appendix.

Several respondents felt no more improvement was needed.

One or two respondents made the point that some initiatives to improve the appearance of the parish would be expensive or time consuming to maintain, eg flower beds.

Do you think that anything else needs to be done to improve	Ye	es	No No opinion			inion	Total
the appearance of the Parish by:	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	responses
Providing flowerbeds?	127	33%	150	39%	104	27%	381
Planting more trees?	120	33%	138	38%	108	30%	366
Creating wild-life friendly habitats?	139	39%	99	28%	119	33%	357
Better hedgerow management?	216	54%	77	19%	104	26%	397
Installing better signs at entrances to the Parish?	124	33%	136	37%	112	30%	372



When considering the comments, there appears to be quite a conflict of opinion between those who thought more signs were desirable and those who thought there were already too many. Several made the point that signs should be kept clean and visible. Others felt that unofficial advertising signs were detrimental to the appearance of the parish, particularly those near Baches. There were requests for tidying up the area around the parish hall, keeping kerbs weed free and cutting grass regularly.

Finally, one respondent suggested that Bodenham enter the Best Kept Village competition.

Q21. Are any of the following a problem for you where you live? (Tick all that apply)

The last question in the Environment section was a general one asking for particular nuisances in the vicinity of people's homes. Several possible nuisance types were listed on the form and an option given for respondents to mention others. The possible nuisance types listed were: bonfires, noise from local businesses, noisy neighbours, noisy leisure activities, road noise / noisy vehicles, noisy dogs and aircraft noise. The results are listed in the table below and shown graphically in the bar chart. A small majority of respondents, 53%, did not have problems with any of the items in the list and the proportions indicating that something was a problem were small, the maximum was 20% for aircraft noise which, by its very nature, would be widely perceived. However, the fact that only a few people experience a problem should not detract from its impact on individuals' lives.

Are any of the following a problem for you where you live?	Number	%
Bonfires	59	12%
Noise from local businesses	26	5%
Noisy neighbours	9	2%
Noisy leisure activities	11	2%
Road noise/ noisy vehicles	67	14%
Noisy dogs	52	11%
Aircraft noise	97	20%
Other	47	10%
None of these	251	53%
Total responses	478	
Not answered	51	
Total survey responses	529	



Fifty-four comments were received and they are listed in a separate appendix. Many of these comments supplied detail to complement the "tick". However a considerable number of respondents mentioned the additional nuisance of smells from agricultural and business activities involving animals, eg spreading of chicken manure.

Flood alleviation and improved drainage

Has your property in the Parish ever suffered from	Yes		Νο		Don't know		Total
flooding of:	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	responses
The house?	41	9%	388	84%	33	7%	462
The garage or an outbuilding?	90	20%	338	74%	31	7%	459
The garden?	155	32%	291	60%	36	7%	482

Q22. Has your property in the Parish ever suffered from flooding of:



As can see from the table and bar charts above 9% of residents have had flooding of their homes, 20% flooding in a garage or out-building and 32%, nearly a third, flooding of their gardens.

Flooding of dwellings is a problem for about 9% of the householders across the parish. Flooding of garages / outbuildings is 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 got flooded, the proportion rose to 62% of respondents in the village and 59% of those in Maund Bryan.

Q23. If you answered, Yes in any line of Q22, what was the cause? (Tick all that apply)

Residents who experienced flooding were asked about the causes and given a list of six possible causes on the survey form. The results are shown in the following table and bar chart on the following page. The most common cause was water run-off from roads. There was also a question inviting residents to mention other sources of flooding. Forty replied. Generally, respondents used this option to expand on the problems caused by items in the list. Particular mention was made for a need for a larger culvert in Maund Bryan and for improved drains in Orchard Close. Inadequate clearing of ditches and culverts was also seen as a cause for flooding. Finally, several respondents mentioned the problem of exceptionally heavy rainfall. The full list of comments is contained in a separate appendix.

What was the cause (of flooding)?	Number	%	Causes of flooding
Not Known	9	5%	
Flooding from the River Lugg	18	10%	Not Known Flooding from the River Lugg
Water run-off from fields	66	36%	Water run-off from fields
Water run-off from roads	90	49%	Water run-off from roads Blocked drains/sewers
Blocked drains/sewers	42	23%	Blocked culvert
Blocked culvert	78	43%	Watercourse/drain/ditch clear but too
Watercourse/drain/ditch clear but too small to cope	68	37%	Other 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%
Other	30	16%	% of responses
Total responses	183		
Not answered	346		
Total survey responses	529		

Q24. Do you, or anyone that you know of, need help in the event of heavy rainfall or flooding (for example, in moving furniture, placing sandbags, getting to a place of safety)?

Eighty-eight respondents (18%) said they knew of someone who would need help in the event of flooding. There may be some double counting in the responses as several respondents could have the same person in mind; at the extreme there could be 88 respondents all thinking of just one person needing help!

Q25. Are you willing to volunteer to help others in the Parish in this kind of emergency?

Nearly half of the 471 respondents who answered the question said that they would be willing to help others in the parish in a flooding emergency. This result is shown in graphical and tabular format next.

Are you willing to volunteer to help others in the Parish in this kind of emergency?	Number	%
Yes	218	46%
No	253	54%
Total responses	471	
Not answered	58	
Total survey responses	529	



Local facilities

Q26. How often do you use the Parish Hall?

A high proportion of villagers, 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. The table and pie chart below illustrate overall usage rates. It should be noted that the terms "regularly" and "occasionally" were not defined on the survey form and there may be variations in how they were interpreted by individual respondents.

How often do you use the Parish Hall?	Number	%	
Regularly	98	19%	
Occasionally	311	59%	
Never	114	22%	
Total responses	523		
Not answered	6		
Total survey responses	529		



Q26a. How do you rate the facilities in the Parish Hall?

Over 500 respondents gave their opinion on the facilities at the parish hall. Just over half (52%) thought they were "good" or "very good". Only 4% thought they were "poor" or "very poor". The remaining 54% either had no opinion or thought they were "average". The full results are shown in the table and bar chart below.

How do you rate the facilities in the Parish Hall?	Number	%
Very good	59	12%
Good	202	40%
Average	138	27%
Poor	16	3%
Very poor	4	1%
No opinion	85	17%
Total responses	504	
Not answered	25	
Total survey responses	529	



Residents were asked how facilities could be improved. 94 comments were received in response to this question. These are listed in a separate appendix but those which were mentioned more than once are summarised in the table below, including the number of respondents that mentioned them.

Sugges	Suggested Improvement to Parish Hall Facilities								
Suggestion	Number Received	Comments							
General refurbishment / modernisation / facelift	16								
Kitchen	18	Both current facilities and addition on new facilities such as a microwave and dishwasher							
Toilets	15								
Lighting	9	Several residents commented that the current fluorescent lighting was harsh and unfriendly							
Better Standards of Cleanliness	8	Particularly the toilets							
Acoustics / Sound System	6								
Stage / stage curtains	5								
Decorating the back room	4								
Removing the height barrier from the car park	3	To enable mobile library and buses to pull in off the road							
Road crossing	3	This was also an issue picked up in the section on road safety							
Exterior landscaping	2								

Q27. Would you use any of the following facilities if they were made available?

Respondents were asked if they would use four suggested community facilities if they were made available. These were allotments, a communal composting facility, bulk buy food facility or a Local Exchange Trading Scheme (LETS)¹. There was also an option to make other suggestions. 194 respondents indicated support for one or more of the four options or another suggestion. All four received backing, as can be seen from the table and bar chart below but a communal composting facility would be most popular.

Would you use any of the following facilities?	Number	%
Allotment	33	17%
Communal composting facility	129	66%
Bulk buy food club	40	21%
Local Exchange Trading Scheme*	63	32%
Other	12	6%
Total responses	194	
Not answered	335	
Total survey responses	529	



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 to be made.

The twelve "other" suggestions are listed in a separate appendix and included 7 ideas for other communal facilities: a car share scheme, education and computer, land share scheme whereby people with too large gardens would let others work them in return for some of the produce, a local market, more recycling options (eg clothes, shoes) and an annual collection for large unwanted items.

Q27a. If you have ticked any box in Q27, would you be prepared to organise that facility?

16 respondents indicated that they would be prepared to organise community facilities. The numbers interested in organising each of the community facilities are shown in the following table.

Community Facility	Number
Allotments	5
Communal composting facility	13
Bulk buy food club	5
LETS	10
Land share	1
Car Share	1

It should be remembered that land share and car share schemes were not included in the list of options on the survey form. Had respondents been prompted, more might have indicated and interest both in supporting or organising.

Q28. Which local businesses and other amenities do you use and how often?

Respondents were asked about the frequency with which they used the church, chapel, post office, surgery, dispensary, pub, and garage. The results are summarised in the table and bar chart on the next page.

The post office was most widely used with 98% of respondents using it at least occasionally, and 50% either daily or weekly.

The garage was also patronised by the overwhelming majority of respondents (97%), mostly on a daily (29%) or weekly (42%) basis.

Whilst the proportion using the church on a weekly basis was 9% and on a monthly basis another 9%, there was a very high rate of occasional use (57%). Thus about three-quarters of respondents attended the church at least sometimes.

About one quarter of the respondents use the chapel, mostly on an occasional basis but 5% attend weekly and 2% monthly.

Although about three-quarters of respondents use the church and a quarter use the Chapel these figures should *not* be attended together to simplistically conclude that all the respondents are church or chapel goers. There is some overlap in use and a significant number of respondents, 97, who never use either church or chapel.

82% of respondents said they use the surgery at least occasionally and a similar proportion, 79% use the dispensary. Whether the remaining 18% are extremely healthy or access medical services elsewhere, it is not possible to determine from the questionnaire.

82% of respondents use the pub at least occasionally; 22% use it monthly or more often, and about 10% use it weekly.

Which local businesses and	Daily Wee		ekly Monthly		Occasionally		Never		Total		
other amenities do you use and how often?	Num ber	%	Num ber	%	Num ber	%	Num ber	%	Num ber	%	responses
Church	1	0%	38	9%	39	9%	245	57%	104	24%	427
Chapel	0	0%	18	5%	9	2%	62	17%	281	76%	370
Post Office	19	4%	235	46%	98	19%	143	28%	11	2%	506
Surgery	3	1%	36	7%	134	27%	237	47%	89	18%	499
Dispensary	1	0%	37	8%	177	37%	165	34%	103	21%	483
Pub	5	1%	40	9%	57	12%	273	60%	83	18%	458
Garage	141	29%	209	42%	47	10%	84	17%	13	3%	494



Respondents were also asked if they used any other local businesses and amenities. The full list of 27 responses is given in a separate appendix. The list included Baches (most frequently), the golf course café, Broadfield Court, the hairdresser, hunt kennels, photocopying service, Siward James meeting hall, and local tradesmen.

Q29. Which of the following facilities do you find it difficult to access? (Tick all that apply and explain why accessing these is difficult for you).

Respondents were asked if they had problems accessing a dentist, supermarket, bank, cash point or other facilities. Eighty-four per cent had no problems, meaning that 16% had problems accessing one or more of the four listed. Most stated that their problems with access were due to disability or lack of a private means of transport. There were a few complaints about the lack of NHS dentists locally. Sometimes it was not possible for respondents to get to facilities like a dentist or a bank at the time when these are open due to work commitments or bus times. Accessing an NHS dentist appeared to be difficult for some which led to a reliance of one respondent on the emergency clinic and other respondents travelling long distances.

Several respondents commented that a cash point in the village, preferably free, would be useful.

The responses to the question are summarised in the table and bar chart below.

Which of the following facilities do you find it difficult to access?	Number	%	90%	Which facilities are difficult to access?
Dentist	32	9%	70%	
Supermarket	20	6%	8 80%	
Bank	24	7%	Second Solution Second Solution Solutio	
Cash point	28	8%	4	
None of these	290	84%	× ^{30%}	
Other	6	2%	20%	
Total responses	345		10%	
Not answered	184		0%	Dentist Supermarket Bank Cash point None of Other
Total survey responses	529] [these

Leisure

Q30. What additional leisure facilities and activities would you like in the Parish (Tick all that apply)

On the survey form, there was a list of 15 possible additional leisure facilities and activities; respondents were asked to indicate whether they wanted to see them in the parish or not, or if they did not have an opinion. There was also an opportunity for respondents to specify other activities they might like to see. The full results are displayed in the following table.

What additional leisure facilities and	Yes		No	D	No ор	Total	
activities would you like in the Parish	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	responses
Cricket pitch	93	28%	50	15%	190	57%	333
Football pitch	89	27%	57	17%	187	56%	333
Sailing/canoeing	109	34%	46	14%	168	52%	323
Fishing	90	28%	45	14%	182	57%	317
Outdoor fitness trail	102	32%	39	12%	181	56%	322
Youth club	112	34%	34	10%	184	56%	330
Brownie club	83	26%	34	11%	198	63%	315
Kick about/play areas	107	34%	44	14%	166	52%	317
BMX/bike trail	63	21%	68	22%	173	57%	304
Martial arts	37	12%	59	20%	201	68%	297
Adventure playground	89	29%	44	14%	174	57%	307
Film shows	103	34%	29	10%	169	56%	301
Skate park	31	10%	84	28%	183	61%	298
Pony club	41	14%	41	14%	215	72%	297
Youth theatre	54	18%	36	12%	213	70%	303

It is not obvious how the "no's" should be interpreted. Taken at face value, it could suggest that there is a substantial minority opinion opposed to each suggestion, ranging from 84 objectors (28% of respondents) to a skate park, down to 29 opponents (10% of respondents) to film shows. However, there were no strong negative opinions expressed in any of the 33 comments and other suggestions, which are listed in a separate appendix, to indicate vehement opposition to any of the 15 suggestions. It is possible that people ticked the "no" option if they, personally, were not interested.

To look on the positive side of the responses to this question, there appears to be support for all the suggested leisure facilities and activities, ranging from 31 respondents who would like to see a skate park in the village to over 100 for each of sailing / canoeing, outdoor fitness trail, kick about / play areas and film shows.

The degree of positive support for each option is illustrated in the next bar chart.

Thirty-three comments and suggestions were received which are listed in a separate appendix. Suggestions for other activities that might be considered were: art classes, boating on lakes with café, classical music recitals, Cubs / Scouts / Beavers / Rainbows / Guides, dry ski slope, elderly persons' club one day a week in the parish hall, more fitness / yoga classes, outdoor public bowling green, rugby pitch, swimming pool, and village choir. There were some suggestions about footpaths but these have been carried forward to the discussion of the question on footpaths later in this section.

Amongst the comments received several suggested that more activities for children and teenagers would be good for the parish. One commentator doubted the viability of some options.



Q31. If you answered 'Yes' in any row above, would you be prepared to organise or help with the facility/ activity in question?

Respondents were then asked if they would be prepared to help with the facility / activity in question. Just over a quarter of respondents would be prepared to help, amounting to 75 individuals, as extracted from the full results to this question shown in the following table.

If you answered 'Yes' in any row above, would you be prepared to organise or help with the facility/ activity in question?	Number	%
Yes	75	27%
No	205	73%
Total responses	280	
Not answered	249	
Total survey responses	529	

The break down of these 75 residents into the activity / facility they wanted to see in the Parish is shown in the bar chart below. Results range from 36 who would volunteer to help with a youth club down to 11 who would help with a skate park. There is a great deal of overlap between facilities supported and a willingness to help; how many of the 15 activities listed could be organised by the 75 individuals who

indicated a willingness to help is another issue. If an individual ticked all 15 options and indicated a willingness to help, could he / she give time to all of them?



Q32. How often do you use public footpaths in the Parish?

It is evident, from some the comments about footpaths invited in question 33A, that some of the respondents interpreted "public footpaths" to mean the pedestrian pavement adjacent to a road rather than to a track or right of way across a field, through a wood or any other undeveloped land. Consequently, some of the usage rates presented in the table and graph below may be over inflated by a small amount. With this proviso, 80% of the respondents use the footpaths at least occasionally and 38% use them at least monthly. The full results are listed and displayed in the table and graph below.

How often do you use public footpaths in the Parish?	Number	%
Daily	65	13%
Weekly	79	16%
Monthly	43	9%
Occasionally	218	43%
Never	99	20%
Total responses	504	
Not answered	25	
Total survey respondents	529	



Q33. Would you like to see:

Respondents were then asked if they would like to see better maintenance of footpaths, better signage, better information, or more footpaths. There was also an opportunity on the form to expand on the answer or provide additional suggestions. For most improvements, the majority of respondents had no opinion or did not want the improvement suggested. But 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. The full results are shown in the table below, and the following chart.

Would you like to see	Yes		No		No opi	Total	
Would you like to see:	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	responses
Better maintenance of footpaths?	146	36%	80	19%	185	45%	411
Better signage of footpaths?	118	30%	99	26%	170	44%	387
Better information about local footpaths?	163	41%	81	20%	158	39%	402
More footpaths?	116	30%	100	26%	176	45%	392



79 comments pertaining to public footpaths in the parish were received. These are listed in a separate appendix and summarised here.

On the subject of maintenance, there were 11 complaints about the state of the footpaths; an unsafe footbridge, footpaths that get very muddy and impassable in wet weather, and some that get very overgrown with vegetation. One respondent suggested that sessions to clear and strim footpaths could be arranged.

There were four comments about lack of clarity and poor signage, including a complaint that a farmer was removing footpath signs.

There were 18 requests for better information about footpaths. Most of these suggested a pamphlet / leaflet detailing local footpaths. Apparently, there used to be one. Some respondents suggested mounting large scale maps showing footpaths on existing or new notice boards.

Sixteen residents suggested more footpaths, particularly around the lake / gravel pits. Some respondents suggested that certain paths, marked on old maps, should be reinstated, including a circular path on the Broadfield Estate and a path linking the Railway Inn with the western end of the nature reserve. One respondent thought that a network of footpaths avoiding the A417 would be desirable, another liked the idea of footpaths that avoided livestock, another wanted wheelchair accessible paths.

There were five requests to replace stiles with kissing gates.

Ten comments related to pedestrian pavements, rather than footpaths.

Several comments indicated conflicts between farmers, walkers and dog owners. Some farmers are perceived as hostile or at the least unhelpful to walkers whilst some walkers would rather not see livestock in fields with footpaths. Some walkers deplore dog mess along footpaths. Some dog owners have a plea for more dog-friendly areas to exercise their animals.

Q34. How often do you ride on horseback in the Parish?

5% of respondents, 26 individuals rode on horseback in the parish at least occasionally. The full results can be seen in the table below.

How often do you ride on horseback in the Parish?	Number	%
Daily	7	1%
Weekly	4	1%
Monthly	1	0%
Occasionally	14	3%
Never	485	95%
Total responses	511	
Not answered	18	
Total survey responses	529	

Q35. Would you like to see....?

Respondents were then asked about the desirability of improvements to the network of bridleways. Twice as many wanted to see improvements of some kind, as actually rode horses. This group would include walkers and other potential users. The full results are shown in the table and bar charts following.

Would you like to see?	Yes		No		No opi	Total	
See?	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	responses
Better maintenance of bridleways?	51	15%	36	11%	255	75%	342
Better signage of bridleways?	44	13%	40	12%	251	75%	335
Better information about local bridleways?	48	14%	40	12%	248	74%	336
More bridleways?	41	12%	48	14%	251	74%	340



Thirty-two comments were received, expanding on individual's yes / no responses. These are listed in a separate appendix.

On the subject of maintenance, 2 respondents thought the bridleways were in "good" condition, 4 thought that maintenance could be improved.

Only two comments about signage were received, one wanted improvements, the other thought the OS map gave adequate information.

As with footpaths, there were suggestions that a leaflet would be useful – 3 comments received.

Nine respondents commented on the need for more bridleways. Two of these suggested that landowners could develop off-road riding schemes, others referred to reopening old bridleways, eg to Preston Wynne, Venns Wood, Marden. It was pointed out that provision of more bridleways would allow safer routes for riders than roads.

Other comments covered a variety of issues: the need for horse friendly gates, preventing tractors and 4x4 vehicles from churning up bridleways, enabling cyclists and mountain bikers access to suitable routes and stopping horses from fouling!

Health care

Q36. What do you think of the following healthcare facilities and services?

Respondents were asked what they thought of the GPs' surgery, dispensary, nursing services and home help services. The responses are summarised in the table and bar chart below.

What do you thir following healtho facilities and ser	care	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	No opinion/ Don't use	Total responses	
GPs' surgery in	Number	225	133	44	8	1	87	498	
Bodenham	%	45%	27%	9%	2%	0%	17%	490	
Dispensary in	Number	222	124	36	3	2	103	100	
Bodenham	%	45%	25%	7%	1%	0%	21%	490	
	Number	86	59	20	2	0	308	475	
Nursing services	%	18%	12%	4%	0%	0%	65%	475	
Home help	Number	14	17	5	2	0	420	450	
service	%	3%	4%	1%	0%	0%	92%	458	



72% of respondents thought the surgery in the village was "good" or "very good"; only 2% thought it was "poor" or "very poor". 17% of respondents did not use it, whether it was because they were superbly healthy or preferred to go elsewhere cannot be ascertained from the survey.

Similar opinions were received by the dispensary; 70% thought it was "good" or "very good" and 1% thought it was "poor" or "very poor". Again, a relatively high proportion of respondents, 21%, did not use it.

34% of respondents had experience of the nursing services and a lower proportion, 8%, had used the home help service. None of the users thought these services were "poor" or "very poor" and the vast majority of users thought they were "good" or "very good",

Q37. What additional services would you like to be available at the Bodenham Surgery? (Tick all that apply)

Respondents were given a list of additional healthcare services that they might like to see made available at Bodenham 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 half the people who returned a survey form wanted to see additional services. The results are shown in the table and bar chart below.

What additional services would you like to be available at the Bodenham Surgery?	Number	%
Physiotherapy	176	66%
Chiropody	165	62%
Alternative medicine	60	23%
Mental health support/counselling	49	18%
Support for carers	76	29%
Other	16	6%
Total responses	265	
Not answered	264	
Total survey responses	529	



About two thirds of respondents who answered the question wanted to see physiotherapy provided at the surgery. One of the comments received pointed out that the village had raised funds for physiotherapy equipment in the past but the equipment had since been taken away. The respondent wondered where it had gone.

Chiropody also received support from the majority of those who responded – 62%.

Smaller proportions, but still significant numbers, wanted to see the other additional services suggested – alternative medicine, mental health support and carer support.

Nineteen comments or suggestions were made for other additional health services. These included acupuncture, Bowen technique, extension of flu jabs to those who are not eligible for free vaccination but who would be willing to pay, and dentistry. There were also requests for age concern events, a medication delivery service, a pharmacy (as opposed to a dispensary), a slimming club, and "first attender" / first aid training. The full list of comments is attached in a separate appendix.

Q38. How could the healthcare service at Bodenham Surgery be improved? (Tick those that apply)

Respondents were also asked how the healthcare service at Bodenham Surgery could be improved. The survey form suggested more day opening times, and evening or Saturday opening, plus 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 full details can be seen in the following table and graph.

How could the healthcare service at Bodenham Surgery be improved?	Number	%
More day opening times	113	41%
Evening opening times	164	59%
Saturday opening times	154	55%
Other	29	10%
Total responses	279	
Not answered	250	
Total survey responses	529	

Forty comments and suggestions for other improvements were received. These are listed in a separate appendix and summarised here.

Whilst some individuals commented that the healthcare service was perfectly adequate and no improvement necessary, several others called for greater flexibility around the appointment system. The complaints would partly be satisfied by longer opening hours, particularly in the evening or at weekends, but there was also a requirement for earlier telephone booking availability and more appointments available on the day of need. More doctors available at any one time would also speed up the time to wait for an appointment, as well as providing patients with more choice.

Some respondents also felt that the dispensing system was too slow, one comment quoted a week to get a repeat prescription as being unacceptable. Suggestions for improvement included extra dispensers or a facility to order repeat prescriptions by e-mail.

Other suggestions included; pro-active giving of patients test results rather than the patient needing to initiate contact, and measures to prevent consultations being overheard in the waiting room such as background music or sound proofing.

Communication

Q39. The Parish Council has recently sponsored the establishment of the Parish Website at www.bodenhamparish.org.uk. Have you heard about it?

More than half the respondents (68%) who answered the question had heard about the Parish website and 18%, 87 residents, had looked at it. The full results are shown in the table and graph below.

Have you heard about the Parish website?	Number	%
Yes, had a look at it	87	18%
Heard about it, but not looked at it	198	40%
No, not heard about it	210	42%
Total responses	495	
Not answered	34	
Total survey responses	529	



Respondents were asked for ideas on how it could be developed or improved. Thirty-two answered the question, either to make a comment or to put forward a suggestion. The full list is given in a separate appendix and summarised here.

Seven of the comments were complimentary to the website.

Suggestions for additional uses included; consultations on village affairs maybe by using online surveys, more local pictures, footpath maps, names and contact details of parish councillors, information about clubs, societies, classes, PCC etc, a "notice board" facility, a "lost and found" page, and a link to the surgery website. (Author's comment – a lot of these suggestions seem to have already been put in place in the continuing development of 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.

There were less positive comments from a few respondents; the website is difficult to navigate and unappealing, the language is "council speak", the "contact us" tries to open up Outlook. One or two commented on the value for money aspect; there was a suggestion that it should be funded by advertising.

Other suggestions were to put the website address on notice boards in the village, put a link in the newsletter and try to make the website become more prominent when "googling" on "Bodenham".

Q40. Where do you find information about what is going on in the Parish? (Tick All that Apply)

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%. The *"Hereford Journal"* (15%) and the parish website (4%) were the least likely sources of information. Respondents were also asked where else they got information. Twenty-two replied; other sources cited were the School, Post Office window, the Siward James Trust warden and the Ullingswick newsletter. The full list of responses is in a separate appendix.

The details of the responses are shown in the table and bar chart following.
Where do you find information about what is going on in the Parish?	Number	%
Not applicable / not interested	11	2%
Bodenham Newsletter	436	86%
The Hereford Times	240	47%
The Hereford Journal	78	15%
The Parish website	28	6%
Local notice board	206	41%
From friends, family or neighbours	294	58%
Other	22	4%
Total responses	508	
Not answered	21	
Total survey responses	529	



Q41. Do you think there is a need for any new notice boards in the Parish?

When asked if they thought there was a need for more notice boards in the parish, 15% of responses said "yes", but 41% didn't think there was a need for any more and 44% had no opinion. The results are displayed in the table and illustrated in the pie chart below.

Do you think there is a need for any new notice boards in the Parish?	Numb er	%
Yes	71	15%
No	202	41%
No opinion	216	44%
Total responses	489	
Not answered	40	
Total survey responses	529	



Sixty-seven respondents answered the question about where new notice boards should be located. There was a variety of different places mentioned, some only once. The full list is contained in a separate appendix, but the locations that were mentioned most frequently were: outside the parish hall, the garage, post office, Bodenham Moor and Bus Stops. Some respondents commented on the need to keep notice boards up to date and well maintained.

Q42. Would you support a higher speed broadband connection to the Parish?

When respondents were asked if they would support a higher speed broadband to the Parish, 32% were not interested. 56% would support higher speed broadband if it did not cost them anything and a further 12% would be prepared to pay for the service. The results are displayed in the table and graph following.

Would you support a higher speed broadband connection to the Parish?	Number	%
Yes, if no additional cost	270	56%
Yes, and prepared to pay extra	57	12%
No / not applicable	151	32%
Total responses	478	
Not answered	51	
Total survey responses	529	



Q43. Do you agree or disagree that you can influence decisions affecting the Parish?

Opinion was fairly evenly balanced among the 476 respondents who answered the question on whether they could influence decisions affecting the parish. About half did not express a definite opinion either way, whilst 27% either "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that they could influence decisions and 22% were of the opposing view. The detailed results are shown in the table and graph below.

Do you agree or disagree that you can influence decisions affecting the Parish?	Number	%
Strongly agree	5	1%
Agree	122	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	245	51%
Disagree	74	16%
Strongly disagree	30	6%
Total responses	476	
Not answered	53	
Total survey responses	529	



Q44. Do you attend meetings of the Parish Council?

Only 4% of respondents regularly attend meetings of the Parish Council and a further 16% occasionally attend. The majority, 80% never attend. These results are displayed in the table and pie chart below.

Do you attend meetings of the Parish Council?	Number	%
Regularly	19	4%
Occasionally	80	16%
Never	398	80%
Total responses	497	
Not answered	32	
Total survey responses	529	



Q44a. If never, why not? (Tick those that apply)

Respondents who never attend a Parish Council meeting were asked to give a reason. Four possible reasons were given as options in the questionnaire; respondents were also invited to give additional explanations. Nearly a third (30%) of respondents who never attend a Parish Council meeting did not realise they could attend. Almost as many (29%) said they were too busy. 19% were not interested and 16% said the meetings were not at a convenient time. 16% had other reasons, which are listed in a separate appendix. These results are shown in the table and bar chart below.

If never, why not?	Number	%
Not interested	73	19%
Too busy	108	29%
Meetings are not at a convenient time	52	14%
Did not know I could attend	114	30%
Other	61	16%
Total responses	376	
Not answered	153	
Total survey responses	529	



The number of different "other" reasons given was considerable; the only other reasons that occurred frequently were that the respondents were recent movers into the parish (9) or were prevented from attending by health / old age.

Q45. How could it be made possible for residents like you to influence local decisions more effectively? Please specify.

Ninety-two respondents used the opportunity afforded in this question to put forward suggestions for methods to make it possible for residents to influence local decisions more effectively. The full list is provided in a separate appendix, and some of the key themes that were mentioned most frequently are detailed here.

Thirteen respondents thought there were sufficient methods already in place to enable residents to influence local decision making.

Fifteen respondents suggested greater use of the internet; to host discussion on the website, for online voting, to provide more information, or to e-mail residents.

Eleven liked the use of questionnaires to elicit opinion and suggested these or variants such as voting pages in the parish newsletter.

Ten respondents thought parish councillors should be more pro-active in talking to local people to find out their opinions.

Five residents wanted more informal meetings, probably similar to the "Planning for Real" events.

In addition to these recurring themes there were, among others, calls for more and better information, the delegation of powers to the parish from Herefordshire Council and a suggestions box in the parish hall.

Crime and safety

Q46. How safe or unsafe do you feel living in the Parish?

Nearly all the respondents to this question (93%) felt "very safe" or "fairly safe" living in the parish. Eight people said they felt unsafe, none of the respondents felt very unsafe. The detailed results are shown in the table and bar chart below.

How safe or unsafe do you feel living in the Parish?	Number	%
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	



There were, however, 19 comments on why a few people feel unsafe and why others could feel threatened. Twelve mentioned burglaries, either experienced personally or in their neighbourhood, 4 mentioned speeding traffic and 3 felt unsafe on unlit streets at night. The full list is provided in a separate appendix.

Q47. What do think of the local police service?

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". The detailed results are shown in the table and bar chart below.

What do think of the local police service?	Number	%
Very good	27	5%
Good	106	21%
Average	155	31%
Poor	43	9%
Very poor	28	6%
No opinion	137	28%
Total responses	496	
Not answered	33	
Total survey responses	529	



There was no "free text" box inviting respondents to expand on their "tick box" answers but 20 people used the opportunity to express an opinion posed by the previous question on how safe they felt. Most of the comments were to the effect that there was rarely a police presence in the parish.

Q48. Would you like to see the re-establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

Just under half the respondents who answered the question would like to see a neighbourhood watch scheme re-established, 9% were definitely against the idea and 43% did not know whether they were in favour or not, as shown in the table and pie chart below.

Would you like to see the re-establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?	Number	%
Yes	236	48%
No	42	9%
Don't know	212	43%
Total responses	490	
Not answered	39	
Total survey responses	529	



There were 132 respondents prepared to help with such a scheme, shown by a positive answer to a supplementary question, Q48a.

Q49. Are you aware of the Rural Watch scheme under which police alerts about suspected criminal or other suspicious activity affecting the rural community is circulated by e-mail?

Three times as many respondents were *not* aware of the Rural Watch scheme as those who had heard of it. This result is illustrated in tabular and pie-chart format below.

Are you aware of the Rural Watch scheme under which police alerts about suspected criminal or other suspicious activity affecting the rural community is circulated by e-mail?	Number	%
Yes	122	25%
No	358	75%
Total responses	480	
Not answered	49	
Total survey responses	529	



Q49a. If you are not already part of it and are on e-mail, would you like to be part of it?

When asked if they had e-mail and would like to join the scheme, just over a third (36%) of the respondents who answered the question accepted the invitation; this represents 131 people. These results are illustrated in the table and pie chart below.

If you are not already part of it and are on e- mail, would you like to be part of it?	Number	%
Yes	131	36%
No	228	64%
Total responses	359	
Not answered	170	
Total survey responses	529	



Housing and development

Q50. Is more housing needed in the Parish?

About a third of respondents (35%) to this question did not know whether additional housing was required or not; a larger proportion (42%) thought no more housing was needed and a smaller proportion (23%) thought there was a requirement for further dwellings. These results are illustrated in the table and pie chart below.

Is more housing needed in the Parish?	Number	%
Yes	107	23%
No	194	42%
Don't know	165	35%
Total responses	466	
Not answered	63	
Total survey responses	529	



Q51. If additional residential accommodation was to be built in the Parish, what should it be?

Respondents were given an opportunity to say what type of residential accommodation should be built. Several options were listed and there was a facility to make comments or suggest other types of housing. The full results are displayed in the table below.

If additional residential accommodation was to be built in	Yes		No		No opinion		Total
the Parish, should it be?	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	responses
Family houses	214	64%	39	12%	80	24%	333
Executive houses	22	8%	157	59%	85	32%	264
Realistically priced starter homes	242	68%	51	14%	64	18%	357
Social housing / affordable homes	105	35%	104	35%	87	29%	296
Sheltered accommodation	57	21%	110	40%	108	39%	275
Houses for the elderly	113	37%	90	29%	103	34%	306
Houses for the disabled	74	28%	62	24%	127	48%	263

The next two graphs show, in order of preference,

- (a) the types of dwellings respondents would want to see developed, and
- (b) the types of dwellings respondents would not want to see developed.

Respondents felt the greatest need was for realistically priced starter homes (68%) followed by family homes (64%). Proportions wanting specialist housing were considerably lower; houses for the elderly (37%), houses for the disabled (28%), sheltered accommodation (21%). About a third (35%) would like to see more social housing / affordable housing. The lowest perceived need was for executive housing with 8% thinking there was a requirement.

Conversely, respondents felt there was least need for executive homes (59%). The proportion thinking there was no need in the Parish for sheltered housing was 40%, homes for the elderly was 29% and for housing for the disabled was 24%. About a third (35%) did not want to see additional social / affordable housing, balancing exactly those who would like to see more. Small proportions did not want to see realistically priced starter homes (14%) or family homes developed (12%).





When asked what "other" types of houses were needed, there were 24 comments which are listed in a separate appendix. Most of these did not add any further alternatives. There were some suggestions that

low cost options could include houses for rent or shared ownership schemes. There was some concern that development of specialist housing for the elderly or disabled in a village setting could lead to social isolation. One respondent suggested that grants are available to convert general housing to suit disabilities. There were comments that Bodenham is big enough and that further development should be to satisfy local needs. The point was made that Bodenham needed a younger population. One comment queried the capacity of the drainage system to cope with more housing.

Q51a. If there were to be additional accommodation built in the Parish, where should it be sited?

There were 182 responses to the question about where additional accommodation should be sited in the Parish and the full list is provided in a separate appendix with a summary of the main themes here.

Seven individuals took the opportunity to emphasise there opposition to any further housing; another 5 sounded a cautionary note that the Welsh Water drainage system would be unable to cope with additional homes, another 13 pointed out that homes should not be built on the flood plain or on sites where surface water run off could exacerbate existing problems.

Twelve respondents said housing could be built on any appropriate site but generally there was a preference for housing development to be in the Moor (27 comments) and particularly around the Parish Hall / England's Gate area (29 comments). Fewer, 17, suggested that house building in the village, with an occasional suggestion that the Moor needs to be connected with the rest of the village. Eight respondents pointed out that new homes should be close to amenities.

Q52a. Should the Parish encourage the establishment of more:

Respondents 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; the results are shown in the following table and bar charts. Whilst comparatively high proportions (32% - 45%) had no opinion when considering each option, over half (54%) thought the Parish should encourage more small businesses and 38% thought more workshops would be appropriate. Only 10% thought the Parish should encourage medium / large businesses and 47% were against the idea of commercial / industrial development at this level.

Should the Parish encourage	Yes		No		No opinion		Total
the establishment of more:	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	responses
Small businesses	253	54%	65	14%	151	32%	469
Medium / Large businesses	38	10%	186	47%	171	43%	395
Workshops	162	38%	73	17%	194	45%	429



Respondents were then asked where they thought business developments should be sited. Of the 138 comments received, and listed in a separate appendix, all but one were generally supportive of some business development in the parish. Twenty one respondents did not feel able to specify particular locations within the parish, 11 were happy to see development on any appropriate site. Twenty-nine favoured expansion of existing industrial sites and 11 thought redundant farm buildings could be used. Some mentioned the importance of access from a suitable road, especially the A417. Some individuals sounded a note of caution and recommended siting of any industrial development to be away from the flood plain (3) and where it could not cause a nuisance in residential areas (7).

Specific sites mentioned were Bowley Lane (2), Brockington (3), Chapel Lane (4), near the garage (3), Bodenham Moor (4), near England's Gate (6) and the Parish Hall area (7). Less specically, 5 respondents suggested the village centre and 7 the periphery!

There were calls for a green grocery, general grocery and a café / deli - each being mentioned once.

General

Q53. Overall, how satisfied are you with the Parish as a place to live?

Of the 505 respondents who answered the question on the Parish as a place to live, the overwhelming majority (94%) were "fairly satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Bodenham. 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	



Q54. We hope that we have covered most matters likely to concern residents in Bodenham Parish. However, if you have any issues or ideas that have not seen mentioned and you would like them to be considered for the Parish Plan, please state them in the box below, continuing on a separate sheet if necessary. (If you are expanding your answers to particular question, please include the number of that question).

The final "opinion" question on the survey form was a "catch all" question to enable respondents to mention issues not included in the questionnaire or to expand on points already made. Seventy-one individuals took the opportunity to provide further information on a myriad of themes. The comments are listed in a separate appendix. There were some themes that occurred more than once and these are described in this section.

Ten respondents were concerned that Bodenham should retain its identity as a village and should not grow into a small town.

There were a lot of comments about speeding traffic, road maintenance and the need to extend pavements and ensure they were easy to use in the section on Highways. Nine respondents took the opportunity to re-emphasise their strong feelings on these issues.

Ten respondents mentioned nuisance issues including new ones that were not included in the questionnaire; light pollution from street lighting (perceived as unnecessary) and private security lights, unpleasant farm smells and flies from accumulations of animal manure, rabbits (presumably wild), mud on roads, and bonfires. One or two respondents reiterated their feelings about noise from the parish hall and canine excrement.

Six respondents mentioned the importance of learning to live with and regulate flood waters. There were compliments for the work of the Bodenham Flood Protection Group but an appeal for Herefordshire Council to be more pro-active in protecting the village from flooding by widening and maintaining culverts. Five respondents expressed concern at the aging of the parish population and that there was a need to attract and retain young people.

Five thought there should be more activities for children including taking advantage of the lake for boating activities.

Three thought the village appearance generally needed tidying up and making more attractive, eg by new bus shelters, flower beds around the sculpture.

The comments that were "one offs" have not been detailed here as they tend to repeat issues highlighted earlier in the report. Apart from one:

"We love living here"

Personal information

The last section of this report examines the profile, in terms of age, gender, accommodation and employment. It is good practice to compare the profile of respondents to a survey with that of the people invited to participate to see if the individuals who took part are representative. Unfortunately, the only time a complete set of information on the population of Bodenham is at the ten yearly Census of Population. The last Census, before this survey was carried out, was in 2001 and the information will be out of date. The next Census is scheduled for March 2011 but the parish level profiles of the population will not be available until mid-2013 at the earliest.

C1. What is your gender?

There were 529 respondents to the survey of whom 509 indicated whether they were male or female. There were more women than men; the ratio was 11 women to 9 men. This imbalance is reflective of society as a whole and particularly in areas with an aging population. The gender breakdown of respondents is shown in the table and pie chart below.

What is your gender?	Number	%
Male	228	45%
Female	281	55%
Total responses	509	
Not answered	20	
Total survey	529	
responses	525	



C2. What is your age?

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, and this was mentioned several times by respondents, 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	



C3. How long have you lived in the Parish?

Two-thirds of the respondents had lived in the Parish for more than ten years, 9% were relative newcomers having been resident for less than two years. The remaining quarter had lived in the parish for 2-10 years. The detailed results are shown in the table and graph below.

How long have you lived in the Parish?	Number	%
Less than a year	24	5%
1 to 2 years	18	4%
2 to 5 years	50	10%
5 to 10 years	74	15%
More than 10 years	343	67%
Total responses	509	
Not answered	20	
Total survey responses	529	



C4. Is your dwelling in:

Respondents were asked which part of the parish they lived in. Five options were given, representing the most populous areas and individuals who lived in dwellings that could not be categorised by the options given were invited to describe the location. Seventy took this opportunity and the full list can be seen in A separate appendix. 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. Maund Bryan (8%), Bowley Lane (6%) contributed 67 responses between them. Of the other areas specified, 13 were Woodhouse Lane and / or Caldervale, 7 were Dinmore, 7 were Chapel Lane and 4 were Felton / Ullingswick. The remainder were scattered about 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		



C5. Is your dwelling:

The majority of respondents (86%) were owner-occupiers, 14% occupied their dwellings via renting, shared ownership or tied housing. Most of the 2% (12 individuals) who "ticked" the "other" option were living with family members of a different generation. The results are shown 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	



C6. How is your employment status best described? (Tick all that apply)

Just over half the respondents (52%) described themselves as "retired", 45% were employed or selfemployed. The full breakdown of employment status can be seen in the chart and table below.

How is your employment status best described? (Tick all that apply)	Number	%	Employment Employed full-time (over 30 hours a week)
Employed full-time (over 30 hours a week)	107	21%	Employed part-time (under 30 hours a week)
Employed part-time (under 30 hours a week)	59	12%	Retired
Self-employed full or part-time	60	12%	Unemployed
Retired	261	52%	Unwaged homemaker
Unemployed	6	1%	Student
Unwaged homemaker	16	3%	Full or part-time carer
Student	4	1%	0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%
Full or part-time carer	2	0%	% of responses
Total responses	505		
Not answered	24		
Total survey responses	529		

C7. How far from home do you work?

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 of this question about distance from home to work 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 Bodenham 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	



***** END OF REPORT *****