

Alveston Parish Plan

The views of the Parishioners

2008

“ Generation upon generation of quiet diligent toil endowed us with one of the loveliest, most park-like and fetching landscapes the world has ever known. The work of creating the English countryside is done. All that is required of us is to look after it. ”

Bill Bryson

This Plan sets out the **views, aspirations, preferences and plans** that the people of **Alveston** intend to pursue in the next decade.

It is the culmination of eighteen months of work in which the greater majority of the residents participated. The survey is representative of all sections of the community both geographic and demographic.



Acknowledgements

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for initiating and supporting the project.

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for advice, encouragement and finance.

Helmet
for carrying updates and distributing the leaflets.

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Rosemary and John King
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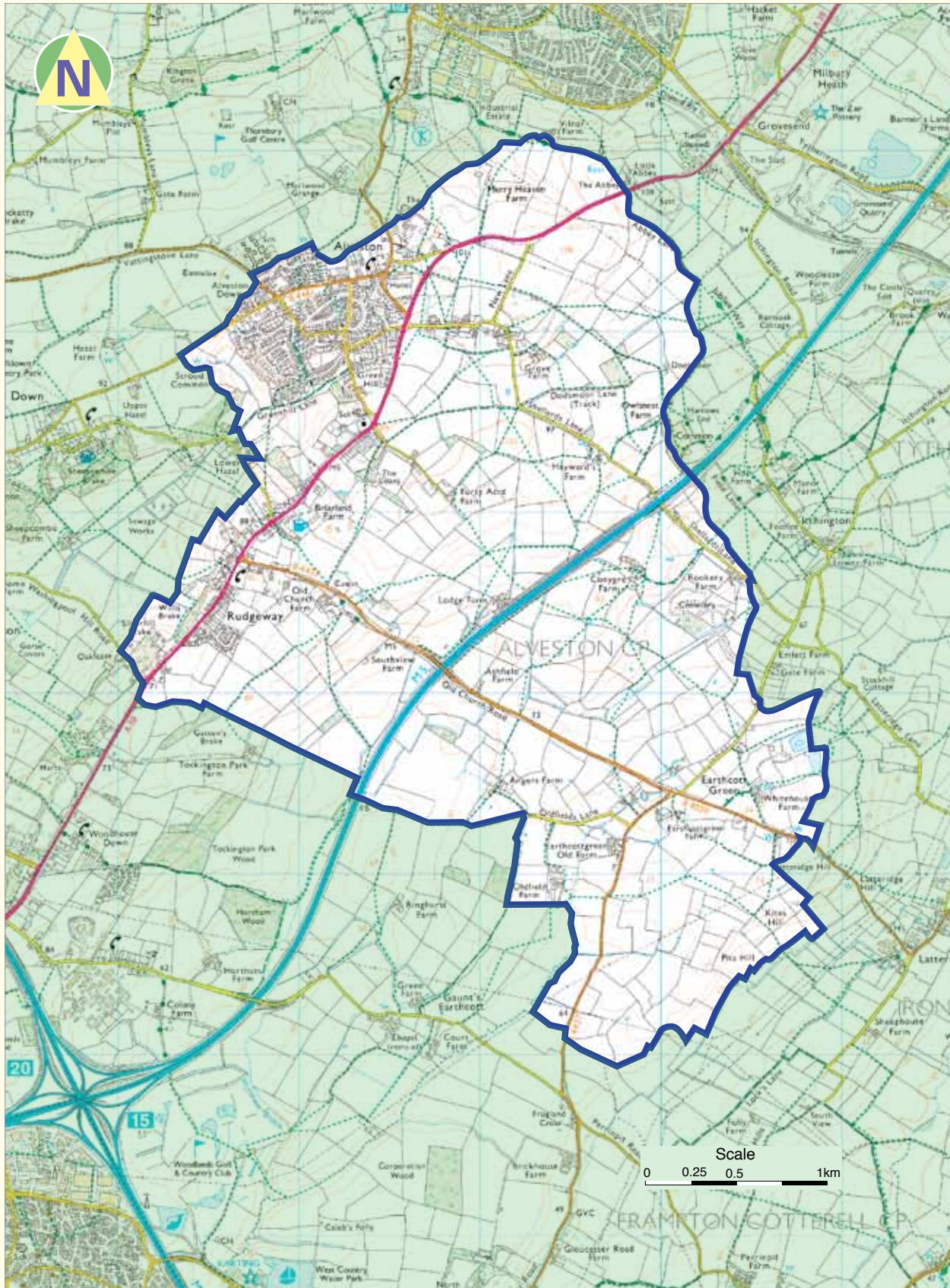
Russ Fergyson
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The volunteers too numerous to name who helped
devise the questions and distribute, retrieve and
analyse the questionnaires and leaflets.





Alveston Parish Plan



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Parish History

Tumuli present to the North of Down Road prove that the area has a long history of occupation. Alveston is recorded in Domesday (1085) as having been held by Earl Harold with 23 villagers, 5 small holders and 2 slaves and worth £12. William II (Red Rufus who was killed in the New Forest in 1100) is known to have hunted here.

The Saxon church was rebuilt by the Normans but by the time that the first accurate map was published in 1831 it was in bad repair. The Ordnance Survey plotted the hamlets of Earthcott Green and Ridge Way showing them to be of similar size to Alveston and the census of the same year recorded a population of 800 for the Parish. Fattingsstone and Shillars lanes had yet to be given the spelling used today.

Following the Enclosures Act of 1836 Alveston Down started to grow with buildings being erected at the Square shifting the centre away from Rudgeway.

In the next 100 years little changed except for the relocation of the church to Greenhill in 1885, the building of the railway which when opened in 1872 became the northern boundary of the Parish, and the by-passing of the Ship Inn in 1933. The latter involved the demolition of the very elegant village post office (the site is "commemorated" by the pillar box at the end of The Street). The boundary between Alveston and Olveston parishes was as it had been from Saxon times, Wolfridge Lane.

The people were engaged in agriculture including growing teasels for knapping the cloth produced in Stroud's Golden Valley, and quarrying. There were at one time or another six major quarries; three in Down Road, Greenhill now the site of Willoughby Close, a very ancient one recorded in a Saxon chronicle west of Underwood Close and that in the Lime Kiln field.

In 1945 the population of the Parish was 1274 but ten years later rapid expansion was underway. The influx of people to work in the aerospace,

nuclear, chemical and other industries soon put pressure on social services and a new school was opened in 1965 to replace the small village school in Rudgeway. Boundary changes transferred the Wolfridge Ride area to Alveston but lost land to Thornbury between Abbey Lane and the now defunct railway. In Alveston village the quarries were filled in and built over to produce today's layout, Rudgeway also expanded but Earthcott Green has been largely unaffected.

The pace of change has quickened; in the last forty years Alveston has changed more than in the previous nine hundred.

The people want to be involved and consulted on all proposals that have the potential to make a significant impact on their quality of life and this document is one stage in that determination.





Introduction to Parish Plan

The Parish Council decided early in 2007 to promote a parish plan for Alveston. They were very determined that although councillors could contribute to the process, the document should be researched, formulated, evaluated and published by the parishioners led by an independent steering committee. The project was publicised, expressions of interest obtained and launched at the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Jubilee Hall 18th April 2007.

Funding was sought from Community Action, who awarded a grant of £3,000 to which the Parish Council added £300.

The first task facing the Steering Committee was to obtain from the residents, the issues, concerns, aspirations and topics they wanted to discuss. A leaflet was designed, printed and distributed to every household; road show stalls were set up at the Flower Show, St Helen's School Fete, Open Gardens Event, Greenhill Parade, etc. The leaflet asked what was liked about life in Alveston, what needed to be retained, what needed to be changed and listed a series of 9 topics, all to stimulate responses. It also sought volunteers to help with the Plan. The research period lasted until 31st July 2007. From the information provided by the returned leaflets the Steering Committee learnt that housing development, health services, traffic and transport, road safety, local shops and businesses, youth, leisure and sport, security, communication, education and the environment were issues for sufficient numbers of people to justify consultation.

At a public meeting attended by 40 volunteers, working groups were formed to design the Questionnaire; each group took one set of topics and proposed a series of questions for inclusion. The resulting document, which allowed each individual member of the household to record their views, was trialled, reviewed, rewritten and published in December 2007.

Distribution to every household was undertaken by dedicated volunteers during January and February 2008. It frequently required several journeys to

retrieve the completed forms. More volunteers gave of their time to collate the answers and enter them into a data base for analysis.

The entries were catalogued so as to permit interrogation of the opinions to identify whether or not opinions differed significantly according to geographic distribution, age (adult or juvenile) and occupational status (simplified to sample employed and retired).



Alveston Horticultural Show Committee 1888



St Helen's Rudgey 1956



Mandate

The statistics that are listed below demonstrate that an overwhelming majority of the parishioners returned a Questionnaire and that the ages of the respondents is closely aligned to the demographics of the Parish. Consequently it can legitimately be claimed that the Parish Plan is an authoritative and representative document.

- A total of 954 households in the Parish returned a completed questionnaire, representing 75% of the 1,272 households identified in the 2001 Census.
- Alveston village achieved a 75% return, Earthcott Green 87% and Rudgeway 73%.
- 1,810 persons above the age of 5 answered the questions, which represents 64.5% of the corresponding population from the Census.
- 11% of the respondents were minors compared to the Census figure of around 12%.
- In the age groups covering adults below 66 years, the Census figure is around 60%; the return 53%.
- Senior citizens (over 65) made up 35% in the survey and 24% in the Census.
- The Census and the Plan returned identical figures for the gender split; 51% female 49% male.



Section 1



General Information

In this Section the Questionnaire sought information about the respondents to enable different interpretations to be made of the data collected in the other Sections. Age group, location, and the factors influencing the choice of Alveston Parish as a place to live were amongst the details requested.

Where we live

As the chart illustrates the number of people living in Alveston village far exceeds those in all other parts of the Parish. This must be remembered when dealing with and interpreting the significance of matters affecting Earthcott Green and Rudgeway.

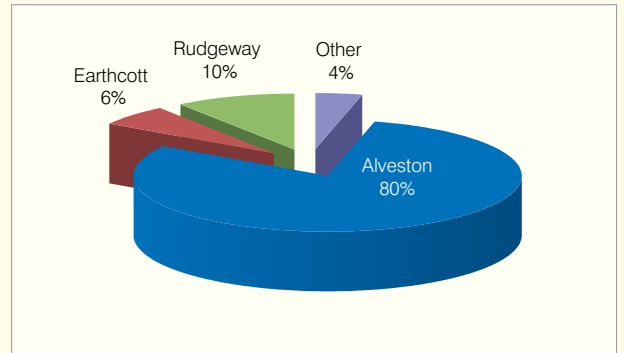


Figure 1 - Distribution of Population

Length of Residence

The Parish has a very stable population 1,419 of the respondents have lived here for more than 6 years and 626 of these for more than 25 years. However when asked about their future plans nearly one third think it likely that they will leave the Parish within five years which even after making allowance for those moving for education is at variance with the stability demonstrated to date. By far the most common reason given is to find a larger/smaller house, very few (less than 2%) intend to relocate because of dissatisfaction with the facilities available. Earthcott with 48% expecting to move is slightly more mobile than Rudgeway. There is no meaningful difference between the retired and working populations.



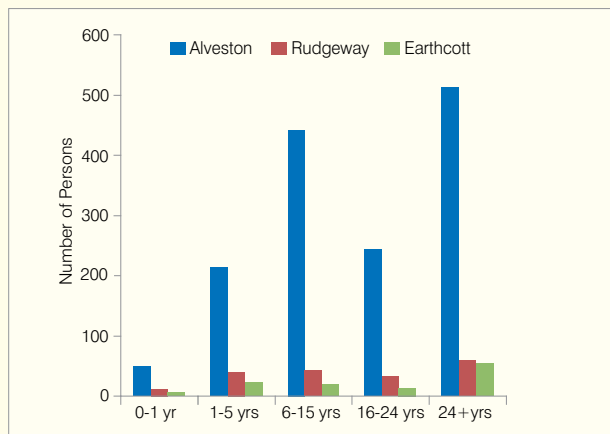


Figure 2 - Duration of Residence

Reasons given for choosing to live in Alveston

Many of the respondents have multiple reasons for living in Alveston but the most frequently given is the rural location; nearly twice that for Village schools, housing or employment. Proximity to family or Bristol is next, then birthplace and lastly motorway accessibility.

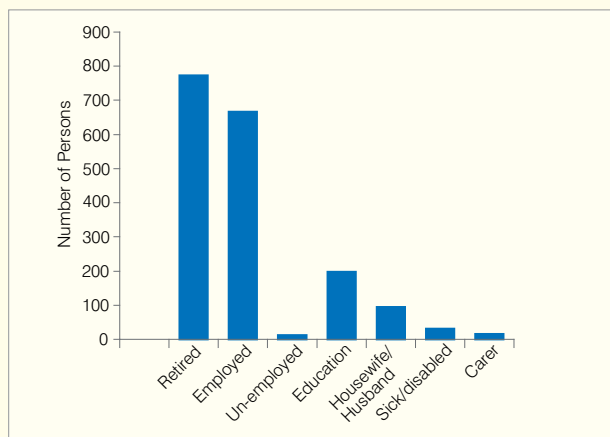


Figure 3 - Distribution of Occupation

Occupation

The Questionnaire offered 7 choices. Retired is the dominant status being slightly more common than employed. Unemployment is almost unknown and nearly 200 respondents are in full time education. The complete results are illustrated in the chart.



Section 2



Environment

In this Section the questionnaire was designed to:-

- Gather the opinions on housing, what demand exists, what form it takes and where any development should be sited.
- Measure the level of support for allotments.
- Prioritise the means of enhancing the natural and built environments.



Greenhill Quarry now Willoughby Close

Development

There is very strong (45%) opposition to any additional housing being built in the Parish. Of the 55% majority who favour further development 840 respondents want development restricted to previously developed sites which in Alveston sensibly equates to gardens. Only 68 wish to see expansion into the Green Belt. However there is very little enthusiasm in any part of the Parish for new housing in the respondent's own area. Only 14% of Earthcott residents are willing to accept development and this figure falls to 13% in Alveston village and 5% in Rudgeway.

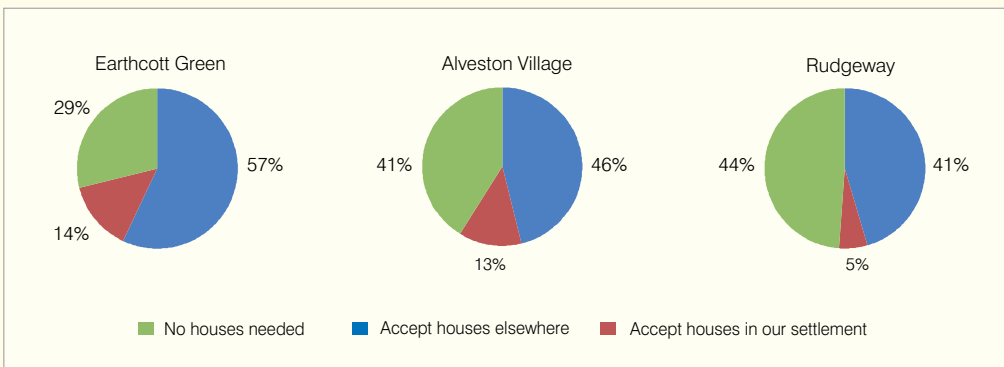


Figure 4 - Residents' views as to the location of new housing



Priority of housing

There is a strong preference among those who are willing to accept more housing, for this to consist of small, 1 – 2 bedroom properties. Every one of the three settlements holds the same view and this preference is also true for the working and retired groups.

Allotments

There was a strong body of opinion for the inclusion of this topic in the Questionnaire. This interest was confirmed as 258 residents said that they will apply to rent a plot if available.

Parish Environment

Preserving green spaces and maintaining footpaths and bridleways are considered to be the most important means of enhancing the Parish environment. This reinforces the answer given in Section 1 that the most popular reason for choosing to live in Alveston is the rural location. However each of the options received strong support. More dropped kerbs and controlled crossings are desired by residents throughout the Parish. This is of great concern to disabled people to whom a question was specifically addressed, but these comments also appeared in the replies of others. The steps at Greenhill Parade prove difficult for many who need a handrail. There were many requests that hedges and pathways be maintained.

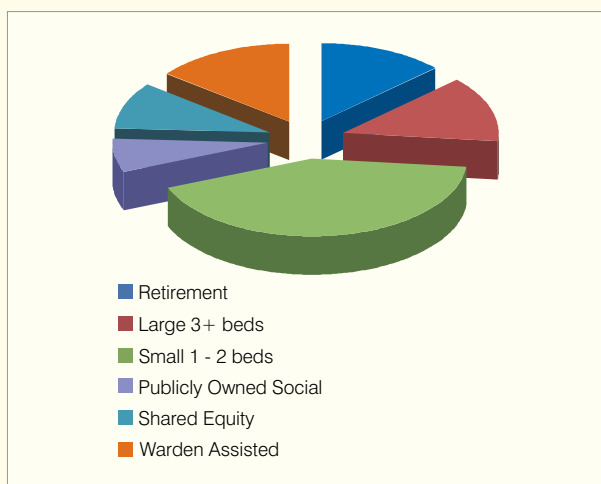


Figure 5 - Housing requirements by type

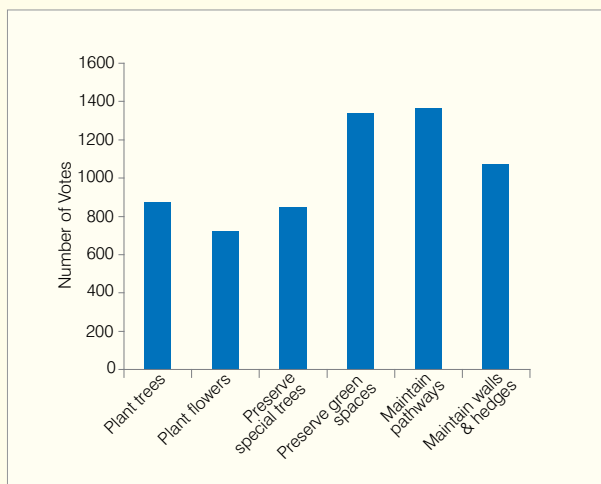


Figure 6 - Means of enhancing the Parish environment

Section 3



Education, Sports, Leisure and Youth

In this Section the questionnaire was designed to:-

- Measure the use of local leisure facilities, clubs and societies.
- Ascertain the levels of support and participation for certain additional facilities requested by Parishioners.
- Gauge the demand to use the Schools' facilities.
- Enquire into the adequacy of pre-school provisions.

Use of Village Facilities

In order to judge the relative popularity of Village facilities the question asked how many times each month they were used. It is theoretically possible if everyone visited once a day, for an individual facility to register 54,300 uses, consequently the numerical values are of dubious value, it is the standing of one with another that is relevant.

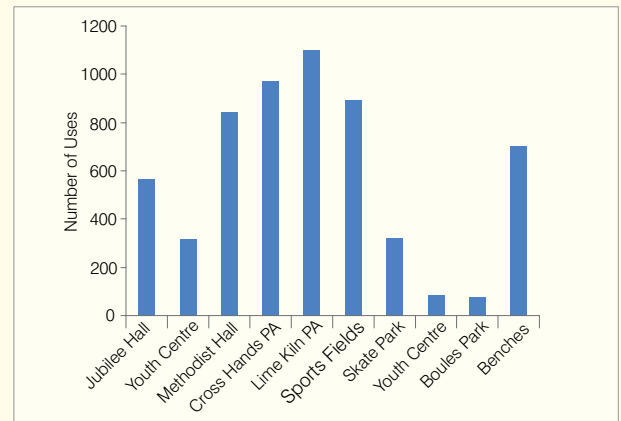


Figure 7 - Monthly usages of Village facilities



Mrs Webb's School in Down Road

New Infrastructure

Consultation had identified demands for several new or enhanced assets each involving significant capital expenditure. However taken as a whole the level of support is somewhat subdued with the most popular, tennis courts, attracting 369 people, enlarged village hall 233, a running track 211 with the upgrading of the Youth Centre, basket ball court and BMX track averaging 133 each. Having said this, 369 people are more than enough to finance and operate a thriving tennis club and a dedicated and enthused group of 233 could enlarge a hall.



Regular members of clubs and societies

The level of attendance is low. Unsurprisingly relative to population, Earthcott Green residents are engaged the least followed by those in Rudgeway. The retired attend less frequently than those in work.

Demand for social events

Consultation had identified 7 proposals with sufficient support to be included in the questionnaire. The response justified this earlier assessment particularly in respect of an annual Village event and the shop/café. A cinema club has 620 adherents representing exactly the same proportion of the total respondents (33%) whether adults or children.

Willing to organise or administer

Parishioners were asked to indicate which of the above facilities they were prepared to run on a volunteer basis. In addition participation in the Best Kept Village competition and development of the Parish Plan were listed.

The response was in the main very positive as can be seen from the adjacent chart. Furthermore if this degree of commitment is reflected in the whole population then more than 470 people are prepared to assist with an annual Village Event. More than twice as many are willing to carry forward the Parish Plan than have participated to date. Youth aspects are not so well supported however. Only 32 offer their help for the drop-in centre although this could perhaps be combined with the café, 23 show interest in helping with an enhanced Youth Group and 18 with school care.

Schools

Over 1,000 people (84% of those with an opinion on the subject) want the facilities of the Village schools made more accessible for use by the public. In respect of pre-school and nursery places the Parish is thought to have adequate provision.

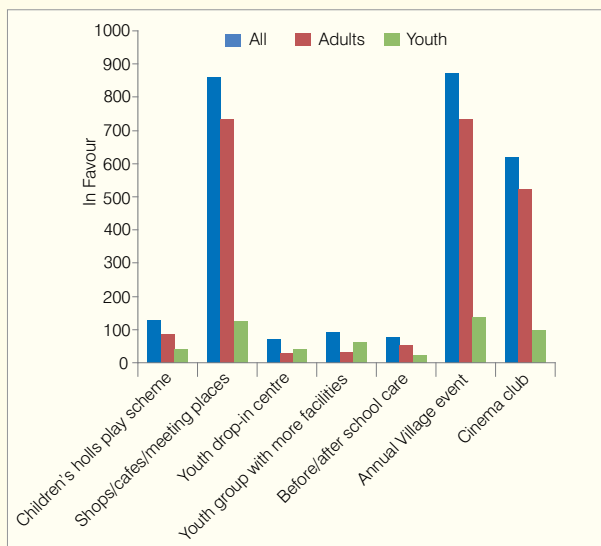


Figure 8 - Popularity of social facilities

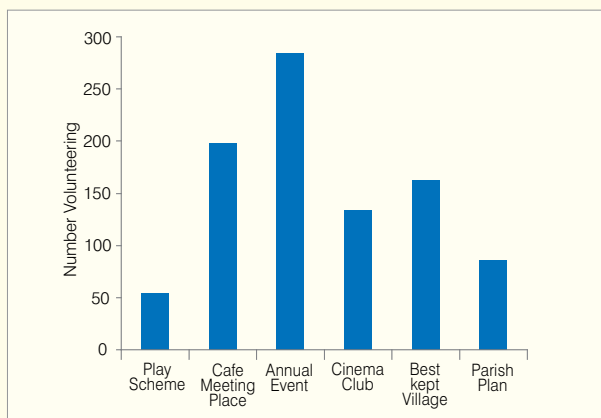


Figure 9 - Willingness to assist with Parish events

Section 4



Local Services, Shops and Businesses

In this Section the questionnaire was designed to:-

- Gauge the actual use of local shops and retail businesses and the reasons behind the current levels.
- Respond to the concern that the Post Office might be closed by conducting a more detailed survey of its services and the frequency they are used.
- Measure the frequency of use of certain services.
- Explore if there was sufficient support for a Parish Centre in order for it to be sustainable and what its purpose would be.
- Conduct a poll to ascertain the level of satisfaction with selected regular services provided by South Gloucestershire District Council.
- Find out how much use was made of the local countryside.

With the exception of the Mason's Arms all the frequented retail businesses are located in Alveston village and therefore the true level of overall support from those with easy access has been judged by looking at the Village returns. The use of the Post Office has been measured by referring to the responses from the whole Parish.

Local shops and businesses

Keeping the Village shops was by far the most important concern voiced in response to the leaflet and the "road shows." Although very few of the Villagers do not support the shops only 59% do so several times each week; the balance which if extrapolated from the Questionnaire sample could equate to over 900 people, are occasional customers. In response to the question asking what prevented them from shopping locally; cost, access and convenience are not major factors very few (5%) complain of poor quality or service but 65% say choice is too limited. The neglected appearance of the shops and the open space at Greenhill Parade is according to many respondents a negative aspect of the Village.

The garage and filling station is important to 851 Parishioners, 588 are regulars in Alveston's public houses and the hairdressers are supported by 306. Other than these mentioned no retail businesses were identified as important.

The Post Office and telephones

During the early part of 2008 it was feared that the Post Office would be closed and a vigorous campaign was underway led by the Parish Council, to keep it open. It is therefore understandable that many more comments were entered supporting this business, than any other topic in the Questionnaire.

All of the services available in the Post Office are used regularly and whilst postal services are used the most, pensions, banking, utility bills, cash withdrawal/deposit, foreign currency and information leaflets all have roughly similar levels of use. Despite the extensive coverage of mobile phones 77% of the adults and 74% of the under 19's want to keep the public telephone boxes.



South Gloucestershire Services

People were asked to grade the standard of service they received for refuse collection, household recycling, street cleaning and mowing. Residents of Earthcott Green graded the services to be worse than those in other locations. It is very noticeable that the District Council's performance is not rated the same across the four services, street cleaning and mowing fall far short of the levels of satisfaction attained with refuse collection and recycling.

The mobile library was used by only 26 people out of the 1,683 who answered this question and they all live in one of three post codes.

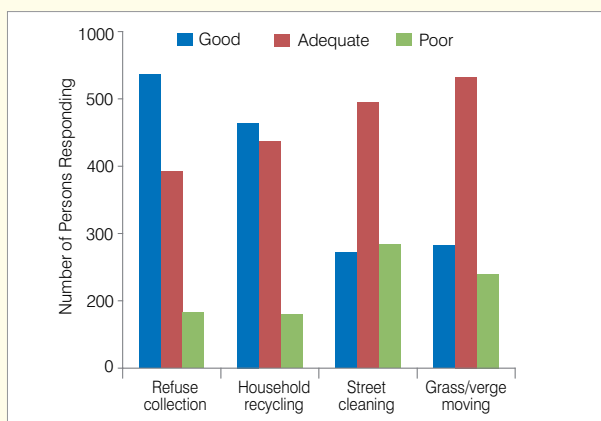


Figure 10 - Grading of South Gloucestershire Council Services

Parish Office

A slight majority of those responding to this question 752 Parishioners, want a Parish office established. Its purposes being in order of preference:-

- Provide Parish Council information and contact (609 requesting).
- Serve as a distribution point for medicines etc (459).
- Serve coffee and newspapers (358).
- Provide an internet connection (279).
This mirrors the desire previously recorded in Section 3 for a meeting place.

Countryside

Walking and cycling are the main activities conducted in the countryside with many residents reporting daily use. Horse riding is a minority activity.





Section 5

Local Healthcare

In this Section the Questionnaire sought in response to a vociferous lobby present during the consultation stage to:-

- Measure the extent of the difficulties experienced by residents in travelling and gaining access to medical facilities.
- Assess the proportion of the population that are unable to obtain dental and chiropodial services within the NHS.
- Gauge the level of interest and support for Alveston based health services.

Travel and access

Health provision is the responsibility of the South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust. General practitioners are located in Thornbury and Almondsbury and although a limited service is available at the Community hospital in Thornbury most hospital services involve journeys into North and Central Bristol. Community nurses, health visitors, midwives, dentists, opticians, chiropodists and therapists are based in Thornbury or adjacent areas. All these services demand travel outside the Parish.

The high level of car ownership is the reason that only a small minority of the respondents report difficulty in travelling to appointments. As could be expected the greater distance to the hospitals is evidenced in the statistics in that nearly double as many report difficulties getting to hospital as do attending doctors' surgeries or chemist shops. However the figures for the retired are double that for the whole community.

In Section 7 is a report on the Community Transport service which shows that very few people make use of it to travel to medical services.

Accessing healthcare services is not reported as constituting any greater a problem for the retired than for the general population; fewer than 100 (6% of total replies) occurrences were recorded for each service.

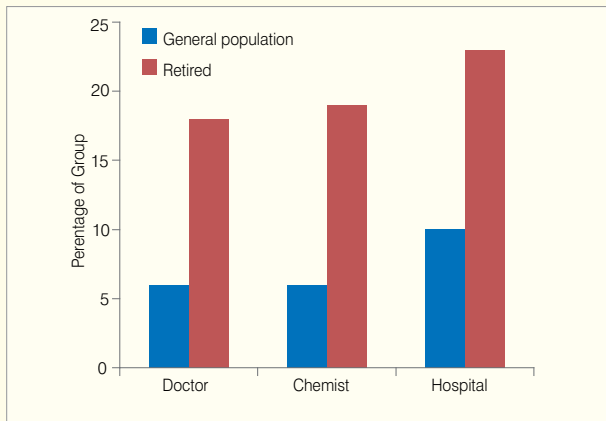


Figure 11 - Parishioners experiencing travel difficulties

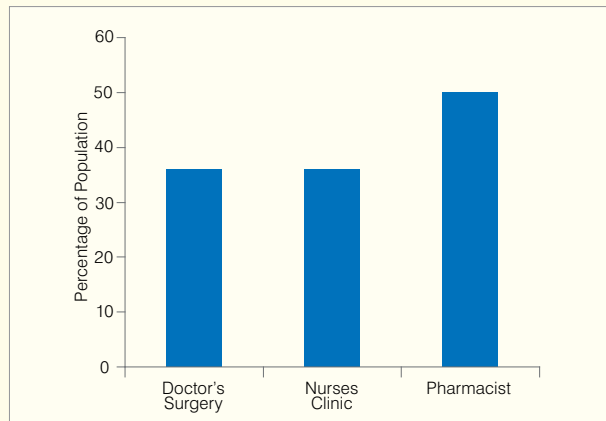


Figure 12 - Demand for a locally based service

Availability of services

Approximately one third of the respondents have to pay for private dentistry and over 170 no longer have regular examinations. Nearly 20% of the parishioners need a chiropodist and for them the situation is far worse, only 62 out of 342 are provided for by the NHS.

Obtaining repeat prescriptions for the over 65's is a cause for complaint, 13% report some difficulty, more frequently attributed to the doctors than the pharmacies.

Although opticians offer a home visit service very few are aware of it and only 2 respondents avail themselves of the facility.

Alveston based provision

A regular but non-daily level of provision was the concept that people were asked to assess with a separate question designed to gauge the level of commitment. People requesting the facilities were asked whether or not they would change from their current provider; 79% said that they would.



Section 6



Community Activities, Information and Security

In this section the Questionnaire was designed to:-

- Determine the means by which the residents obtained information concerning activities in the Parish and if inadequate what media should be used to improve the situation.
- Canvas opinions on policing.
- Assess the feeling of security.
- Gauge the levels of support for events and degree of dissatisfaction with aspects of life in Alveston.

Information

Helmet the monthly newsletter of Alveston's two Churches distributed by hand to every household, proved to be the overwhelming means by which information was disseminated. It regularly carries articles and reports on secular clubs and activities in addition to its pastoral work. It is one of the media used by the Parish Council the others being notice boards in Rudgeway and Alveston village and a web site. The latter is used by very few people which even allowing for the demographics of Alveston, suggests an inadequacy.

None-the-less 1,659 entries were made in favour of more regular and/or detailed information being made available. The most preferred vehicle for this is a community newsletter (35%) followed by Helmet (29%). Once again the Parish web site receives little support.

The Parish Council is assessed by 68% of the residents as providing sufficient information on its activities. On the other hand 1,229 people think that more should be done to assist new residents by means of a welcome pack.

Policing and security

Residents were asked to give their opinions as to the adequacy of the police service in the Parish and how they felt about the general level of misbehaviour.

The survey looked at sub-groups to see if they differed from the general view. The young think the performance is better, 29% rating it Good and 39% Adequate, but only 4% of the retired are content. Overall 40% of respondents judge the service Inadequate.

Only 28 people had used the police surgery, 799 were not aware of its existence which nearly matched the 910 who are aware but make no use. With such a negative view of the police service it is to be expected that there would be a corresponding

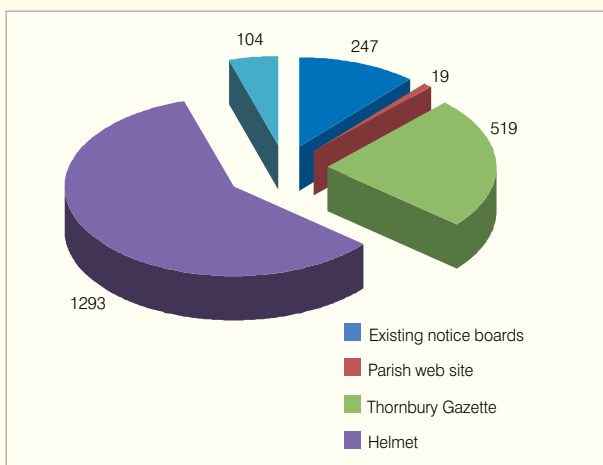


Figure 13 - Number of people using each as main source of information



theme of poor experience and perhaps strong support for neighbourhood watch. This did not prove to be the case as can be seen from the chart and that the majority said they were not willing to assist in watch schemes. One aspect however elicited strong and recurring complaints: scooter nuisance; noise of the vehicles, perceived threatening behaviour, excessive speed, and frustration that repeated complaints although ostensibly received with great understanding by the police result in no action.

Once again the retired have a more negative view than the population as a whole and the young a more positive assessment. The residents of Rudgeway felt things to be more satisfactory than the others although the difference was slight.

Social events and unsatisfactory aspects

Nearly seven in every ten people think that Parish events are important to their feeling of community (there was marginally more support in the Village than elsewhere) with adults slightly more enthusiastic than minors. However school events with 473 participating represents only 26% of the respondents and all the others have even fewer supporters.

Residents were asked to indicate from a list of a nine aspects of the Parish all that they found unsatisfactory. The areas covered were schools, mobile phone and broadband coverage, emergency services, utilities, litter and dog fouling.

There is general dissatisfaction in all areas with mobile telephone coverage, littering and dog fouling (criticised by 565, 470 and 463 respectively). Broadband cover is found particularly wanting in Earthcott Green and of the utilities 116, 81 and 56 people criticised the electricity, water and gas providers respectively. Schools and emergency services are judged satisfactory.

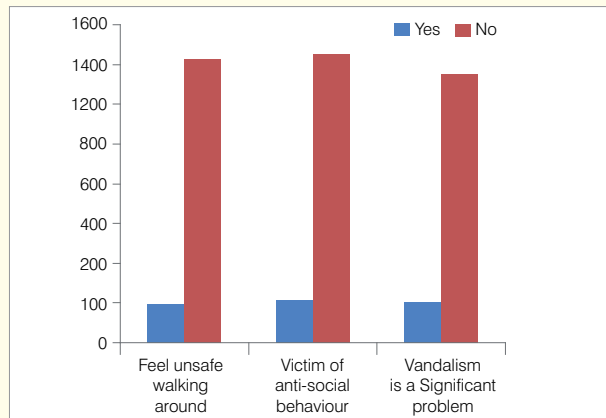


Figure 14 - Opinion of Parish security

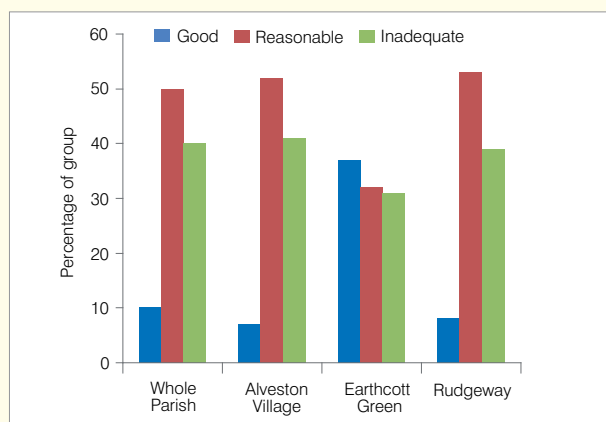


Figure 15 - Perception of police cover and service

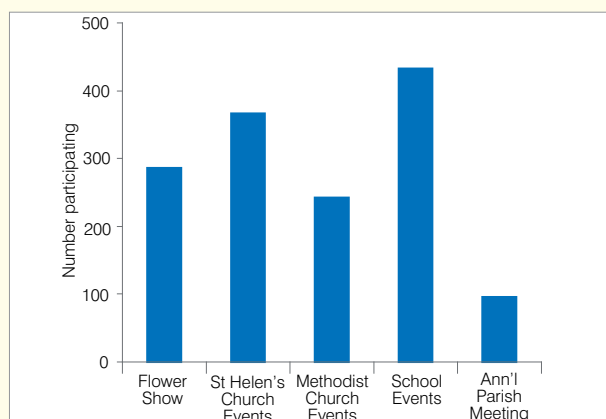


Figure 16 - Support for Parish events

Section 7



Traffic and Transport

In this Section the Questionnaire was designed to:-

- Find the preferred and actual means of transport.
- Obtain opinions on the standard of service provided by the bus companies and the reasons why and the frequency with which they are used.
- Research traffic speeds and hazards.
- Measure attitudes to parking and lighting.

Modes of transport

The 2001 Census reported that 42% of Alveston households have one vehicle and 48% two or more compared with 44% and 30% for England and Wales as a whole. This is reflected in the responses to the Questionnaire, showing that over three quarters of the population of Alveston are wedded to the motor vehicle. A recent survey conducted by St Helen's School showed that only a minority of pupils from within the village walked or cycled to school although most would prefer so to do.

One third of the residents travel less than one mile per day to school or work and slightly more between six and twelve miles.





Bus services

Less than a quarter of parish residents use the public or community bus services and those who do use them, do so mainly for shopping or leisure purposes. It is surprising that the community bus service is not used despite it providing a convenient means of travelling to medical services where a small but significant number of residents reported difficulties.

Such a low use of public transport at the time of a vigorous debate over global warming and high fuel costs is anomalous, particularly in a community with 35% of residents over 65. But the survey reveals that it is not lack of suitable routes or timetable or reliability; for the residents rate these aspects as good to adequate, and the dissatisfaction of some people with fare structure must be questioned given the eligibility of so many for bus passes. Nevertheless cost is cited by 367 people whereas the other 3 aspects of the service upset 250 between them. The reason seems to be that the respondents reject public transport because they prefer to use their own motor vehicles; 884 gave this as a reason.

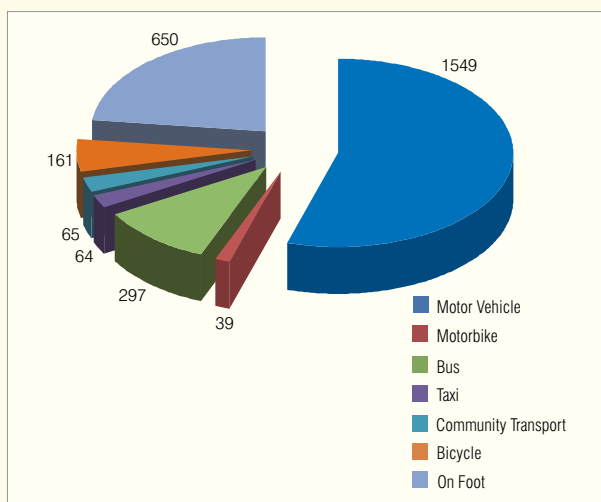


Figure 17 - Main mode of transport by number of people

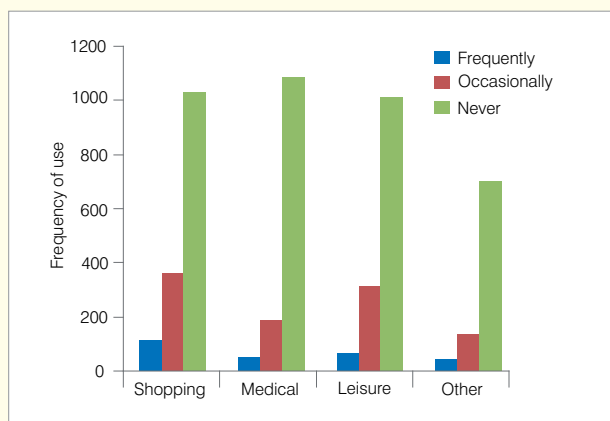


Figure 18 - Use of public bus services

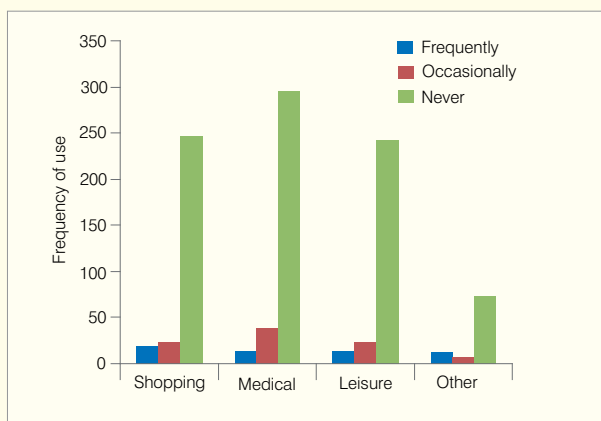


Figure 19 - Use of community bus service

Section 7



Traffic and Transport

Traffic hazards

The speed of traffic and the danger in crossing roads had both been registered as matters of concern. The Questionnaire sought further detail. There is a strong body of opinion that more designated crossings are required and that certain routes lack adequate pedestrian routes. By far the greatest number of comments came from Alveston village and they focussed on traffic speed in Down Road-Strode Common and Greenhill-Greenhill Road. Rudgeway and Earthcott Green are concerned over the routes that bisect their communities.

Crossings near the Cross Hands public house to aid the residents of Haddrell Court and Marlwood School pupils, Greenhill Road to assist shoppers and in Greenhill to help St Helen's pupils are perceived to be essential by significant numbers.

The safety of pupils at St Helen's school in the eyes of some warrants the closing of Greenhill at its junction with the A38.

Pedestrian routes identified as needing significant attention and investment are between the Village and Old Down (used by Marlwood pupils) and Thornbury, considered too narrow for wheeled transport at the Ship and hazarded by cycles being ridden on the pavement.

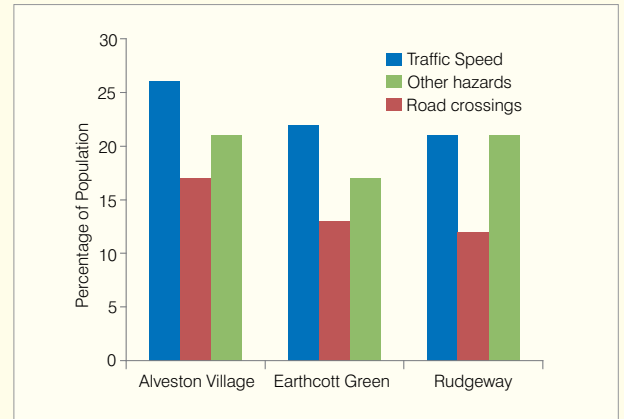


Figure 20 - Identified safety hazards by percentage of population

Street parking and lighting

The majority of the people living in areas with street lighting want no change but 23% want to reduce and 16% want to increase the levels of illumination. On street parking is a more contentious issue with a large number of people (42% of the respondents) thinking it a safety hazard and only 12% as beneficial by reducing traffic speed. Some streets are very much opposed to parking on the highway in particular Wolfridge Ride and the junctions of Greenhill Down with Greenhill Road and Stoney Stile Road. Many report the regular parking of vehicles on footways.



Section 8

This Section posed only two questions, the first asked how additional services are to be funded, the other for views on how well South Gloucestershire District Council considered their needs.

Funding

Across the board irrespective of location or occupation the Parishioners opted for the additional services they require to be funded from taxation.

Consideration of residents needs by South Gloucestershire D C

Over 70% Of the respondents answered this question and irrespective of location, age group or employment status the response is the same, the residents of Alveston are convinced that their views are hardly or not at all considered when South Gloucestershire is arriving at decisions regarding planning, services and spending. With the area facing imposition of large numbers of new houses by central Government and the likelihood of straightened times arising from an economic downturn it would be in everyone's interest, politicians and Parishioners alike if this perception was addressed.

The Vision

From the outset it was clear that the people of Alveston think that the Parish is a safe and good place to live and bring up children. The Leaflet asked, "What do you like best?" and, "What would you like to change?" To which many answered, "Everything and nothing." Their greatest concerns are all associated with change and degradation of the local environment, both natural and built. Change however will occur and the Parishioners have to reach an accommodation with the impacts this will have.

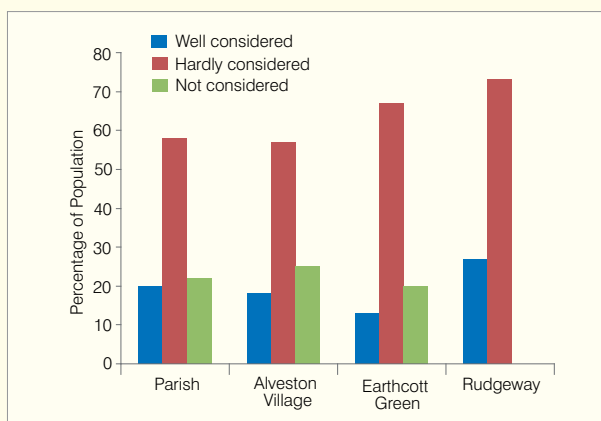


Figure 21 - Rating of S Glos D C's concern for parishioners views by location

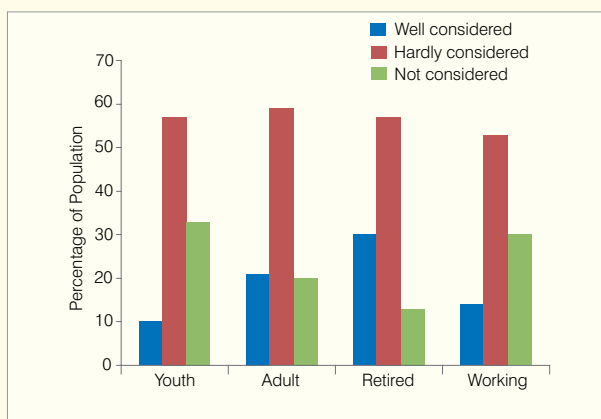


Figure 22 - Rating of S Glos D C's concern for parishioners views by group

The stronger the sense of community the better equipped will the Parish be to face the future and achieving this is the vision for Alveston.

Aims and Actions

Aim	Action	Procedure	Importance	Timescales	Responsibility (Leader in bold type)
1	To monitor and review the Plan				
1.1	Coordination, assistance and monitoring	Form Steering Group to update the Action Plan and publish regular progress reports	High	Inaugural meeting to be arranged for Winter 2008	Community Coordination Group with assistance from Parish Council and other interested parties
2	To raise the level of awareness and hence the degree of involvement in Parish activities				
2.1	Strengthen a continuing sense of community	Publish articles in media (Helmet, Web site & notice boards and when appropriate press). Ensure that detailed information about the progress of the Plan is available to Parishioners and regularly updated	High	Inaugural meeting Winter 2008	Parish Council with the churches, schools, societies, clubs, charities, and organisations operating but not necessarily based in the Parish
2.2	Improve communications within the Parish	Expand and/or complement Helmet, expand improve Parish Web site and continually update	High	Initial discussion Helmet and PC to agree way forward Winter 2008	Parish Council with Helmet production team, District Councillors, societies, clubs, organisations and businesses
2.3	Devise and promote an annual Parish event	Recruit committee from the people who volunteer to help (294) to date	Medium	Meeting Spring 2009 for 1st Event 2010	Event Committee formed from volunteers identified at public meeting.
2.4	Establish a Village Cafe/Centre	Investigate idea which has the support of the Parish Council. Identify location	Medium	Establish Working Group Spring 2009	Parish Council with police, District Councillors, Retailers, South Gloucestershire District Council and Parish groups
2.5	Enter Alveston and/or Earthcott Green and/or Rudgeway in Best Kept Village Competition	Parish council identifies leader(s) from volunteers, submits entry(ies) and delegates to a committee	Medium	Organise for Winter 2008 to enter Spring 2009	New Best Kept Village Committee(s) with churches, schools, retailers and hall committees
2.6	Augment existing welcome pack and distribute to all new residents. Extend to cover Earthcott and Rudgeway	Liase with Alveston churches, increase input from new information sources and distribute via volunteers.	High	Autumn 2008	Community Coordination Group with Parish Council, churches, schools, societies, clubs and businesses
3	To increase the diversity and support for facilities, societies and clubs and improve dialogue between the generations				
3.1	Make available tennis courts within the Parish	Survey available sites negotiate with landlords where appropriate.	Low	Public meeting Summer 2009 to form club	Community Coordination Group liaising for assistance with Parish Council and other interested parties
3.2	Allotments	Negotiate with Diocese for lease	Medium	Initial meeting held 04/08	New Allotment Holders Society with Parish Council and Diocese
3.3	Assess public buildings available for use within the Parish including the Schools and draw up a policy for satisfying the demands	Research requirement, compare with existing, decide on new buildings/modifications, prepare cost estimates, explore funding sources	Low	Public meeting Summer 2010	Parish Council with the Halls' management teams, Governors, Staff and PTA of Marlwood and St Helen's schools



3.4	Establish youth activities	Investigate and identify availability and requirements for youth activities	Medium	Initial meeting Autumn 2008 after start of school year	South Gloucestershire District Council's Children and Young People Department and Youth Centre Committee
3.5	Establish cinema	Investigate use of facilities in Parish	Low	Summer 2009	Community Coordination Group
4	To improve, sustain and support local businesses and services				
4.1	Improve the dialogue between Avon and Somerset Constabulary and the Parishioners and raise the profile of policing	Raise the priority within Avon & Somerset Police Authority, make the surgery more accessible and publicise its existence, revitalise the neighbourhood watch scheme and liaise with the police to discourage anti-social behaviour	High	Winter 2008	Parish Council within the the Safer and Stronger Community Group in partnership with appropriate bodies
4.2	Increase the use of Community transport	Publicise the service by all means available and a mail drop to retired Parishioners	Low	Winter 2008	Vale Link Community Transport with hospital car service, General Practitioners and Community Action
4.3	Improve the quality and use of public transport	Discuss with providers. Ensure that up-to-date information is available to Parishioners by means of the enhanced publicity envisaged in 2.2	Low	Information flow dependent on 2.2	Parish Council with South Gloucestershire District Council, First Bus and South Gloucestershire Bus
4.4	Publicise mobile library services	Place advertisements in Helmet, Gazette and at Library	Low	Immediate	South Gloucestershire District Council's Library Service
4.5	Improve services provided by South Gloucestershire District Council and the level of consideration the Authority gives to the Parishioners views	Make the parishioners views known by direct approaches to the Councillors	High	Immediate but will require sustained effort over duration of Plan	District Councillors with South Gloucestershire District Council Department Heads and Parish Council.
4.6	Improve mobile telephone coverage	Write to all providers	Low	Immediate	Parish Council
5	To provide a more accessible and responsive health service				
5.1	Establish Village based Surgeries and Pharmacy.	Make providers aware of the demand and make premises available	Medium	Initial meeting Spring 2009 to establish Group	Local patients group with medical practitioners, retail outlets, Village Café/ Centre grouping and pharmacy
5.2	Publicise full range of available services	Advertise in Helmet etc and make retailers aware of commercial opportunity	Medium	Immediate	Local patients group with medical practitioners, retail outlets and Village Café/ Centre grouping.
5.3	Provide a better chiropody service.	Discuss with Primary Care Trust. Request South Gloucestershire District Council extends any increase in service to include Alveston.	High	Immediate.	Local patients group with South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust, medical practitioners, retail outlets and Village Café/ Centre grouping

Aims and Actions

Aim	Action	Procedure	Importance	Timescales	Responsibility
6	To protect, preserve and improve the environment of the Parish, retain its rural character and control future development				
6.1	Encourage dog owners to be more responsible in avoiding fouling	Investigate methods of increasing awareness of problems caused by fouling and most appropriate means of ensuring compliance	Medium	Spring 2009	South Gloucestershire District Council dog wardens with assistance from the Parish Council
6.2	Produce a Parish-wide policy on future housing development.	Conduct a survey following the publication of South Gloucestershire District Council's response to the Regional Spatial Strategy	High	RSS published Summer 2008	Parish Council with South Gloucestershire District Council and pressure groups eg Friends of the Earth and The Campaign to Protect Rural England
6.3	Produce a plan for the enhancement of the Parish natural environment	Form environmental group	Medium	Spring 2009	Environmental Group with Parish Council, Alveston Gardening Association, Footpath Walking Group, Highways Authority and private land owners
6.4	Install drop kerbs, hand rail to Greenhill Parade steps, widen repair and maintain pavements and remove obstructions	Conduct survey of needs, prepare status report of existing infrastructure	High	Survey and status report 2009	Parish Council with Greenhill Parade retailers and South Gloucestershire District Council
7	To manage traffic volumes and speeds so as to be appropriate to Alveston's urban and rural areas and the safety of all				
7.1	Provide more controlled road crossings in Down Road and Greenhill and pavements between the Village and Old Down	Obtain documentary evidence of the level of demand and present to South Gloucestershire District Council. Co-ordinate with Schools' Access plans	High	Place article in December 08 Helmet.	Parish Council within the Safer and Stronger Community Group in partnership with the Schools and South Gloucestershire Council
7.2	Speeding traffic through Earthcott Green, Rudgeway and Down Road, Strode Common, Greenhill and Greenhill Road in the Parish	Enforce speed limits and convey Parishioners concerns to South Gloucestershire District Council	High	Immediate	Parish Council within the Safer and Stronger Community Group in partnership with South Gloucestershire District Council
7.3	Parking on the highway obstructing site lines and causing obstructions outside the schools, at Greenhill Parade and in other locations	Encourage residents to report all instances to the police and convey Parishioners concerns to South Gloucestershire District Council	High	Immediate	Parish Council within the Safer and Stronger Community Group in partnership with South Gloucestershire District Council



Next Steps

Role of the Parish Council and Parishioners

The Parishioners have defined how they wish to see Alveston develop and what they want addressed. It is their role not the Parish Council's to provide the energy and determination and take responsibility for making it happen.

The Parish Council have adopted the Plan and whilst they will act as champions in liaising with local authorities and service providers it is not their role to take forward all the action points, it is for individuals, groups and other authorities. However in many of the actions only the Parish Council can take the role of leader but it should be as a facilitator not main participant. In their responses to the Questionnaire many parishioners offered to help attain the goals for example, 294 for an annual event, 163 for Best Kept Village, 198 to run a shop/café/meeting place and it is the Steering Committee's view that the Parish Council should concentrate on mobilising the parishioners and delegating the actions.

The Parish Plan is a standing item on each Parish Council meeting Agenda and it is vital that it continues to be afforded a high place in the list of priorities and that the Council regularly reviews progress; it should be updated annually. It is recommended that an individual councillor or councillors be identified as sponsor(s) of the Plan.

Steering Committee

John Cutland
Val Fergyson
Leslie Forrest
David Mitchell
Peter Wildman
Ann Wilkins



Alveston Parish Plan

The views of the Parishioners

2008

