

# MANSTON



# PARISH PLAN 2009



## **Background to Parish Plan**

The idea of Parish Plans was launched in the Rural White Paper, *A Fair Deal for Rural England*. The aim was to give local communities a say in their future. Parish Plans should, “*identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how the distinctive character and features can be preserved*”

A Parish Plan is thus community based – the community produces and owns it. It identifies residents concerns, what they value and wish to preserve, what they might wish to see changed, and how they might become involved in implementing any resultant action plan.

The Manston Parish Plan grew from the Annual Parish Meeting in 2007 and a presentation from the Action with Rural Communities in Kent (ACRK). Formally launched at Manston Village Hall on 10th November 2007, a working group, through consultation, prepared the Parish Plan Questionnaire. The completed questionnaire was distributed to all households in the parish in 2008. 239 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of over 50%. A consultation Open Day was then held, where questionnaire feedback and comments were made. The working group then distilled all the gathered information to produce this Manston Parish Plan.

## **Introduction to Manston Parish**

The civil parish of Manston was formed in 1986 and is part of the central hinterland of the Isle of Thanet in North East Kent. It is within the local authority area of Thanet District Council, and lies about a mile to the north west of Ramsgate, with quick vehicular access to all the district’s coastal towns. It consists of the village of Manston, along with the hamlets of Flete, Haine, Lydden, Shottendane and Woodchurch.



There is evidence of agricultural settlement across the area since earliest times. It is also very close to many of Kent's important historical sites, including that of the start of the Roman invasion of Britain in 43 AD and the landing in this country of St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, in 597AD. The existence of an early Saxon church at Woodchurch is recorded in the Domesday Book.

The main part of the Parish was first recorded as Mannestone, meaning a farm on top of a hill, and by 1381 it had acquired something like its modern spelling (though until quite recently it can be found spelt officially as Manstone). In that year residents of the village and neighbouring hamlets took part in Watt Tyler's Peasants Revolt.

More recently, the nearby airbase played an important role in both World Wars and then hosted American Servicemen from 1950-58. The latest commercial successor to the RAF and USAF on the site operates civil passenger and freight services at what is now called Kent International Airport, which despite its immediate proximity to the village, is not within the parish boundaries. When entering Manston today from either direction on the B2050, signs proclaiming that Manston is a Battle of Britain village will greet you. There are a number of nearby museums just outside the parish bearing testimony to that part of its history.

Despite the airport, the parish area itself has always been and remains primarily agricultural (though maritime smuggling, using local tunnels and caves, was also believed to have been an occupation of some residents in the 17th and 18th centuries!). The Forge House in the centre of the village – a Grade II Listed building built in 1743 and used for many generations for shoeing the local farm horses – is a reminder of that continuing agricultural heritage. Though light industrial/commercial and other development has now taken place or is planned, both within and adjoining the parish - some of it seen, like proposed expansion of the airport, as part of a wider project to bring economic regeneration to Thanet - the area can still be fairly described as semi-rural.



There is a considerable amount of open space (mainly farmland), a number of horse-riding establishments, public foot and bridle paths, and a general countryside feel.

There are today various types of dwellings in the parish, including in the village of Manston 6 two-storey blocks containing 24 maisonettes, plus a detached house, collectively known as The Leys, formerly a children's home built by the local Poor Law Union in 1901. There are in addition 3 static holiday caravan sites at different ends of the parish, which have residents for most of the year. There is also a scattering of small businesses and commercial premises.

Focal points for the community include an old public house (there has been an inn on the site since the 17<sup>th</sup> century) and a social club. A post box is left as the only reminder of the Village Store. There is also a church – St Catherine's, started in 1872 – next to a small green on which stands a memorial to local people who died in the two World Wars, a 'Living Waters' Church (previously a Methodist Chapel until 2006) built in 1856, a village hall used for a range of social and other purposes, and a small but well-equipped park owned and maintained by the Parish Council.



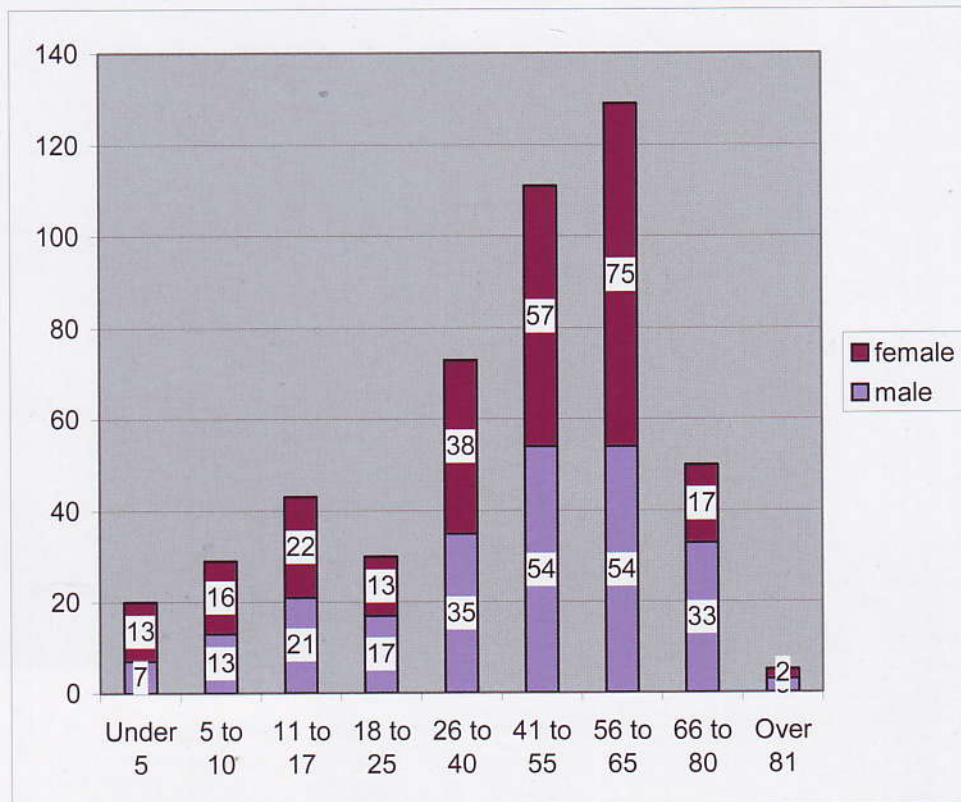


## The Questionnaire – a summary of responses

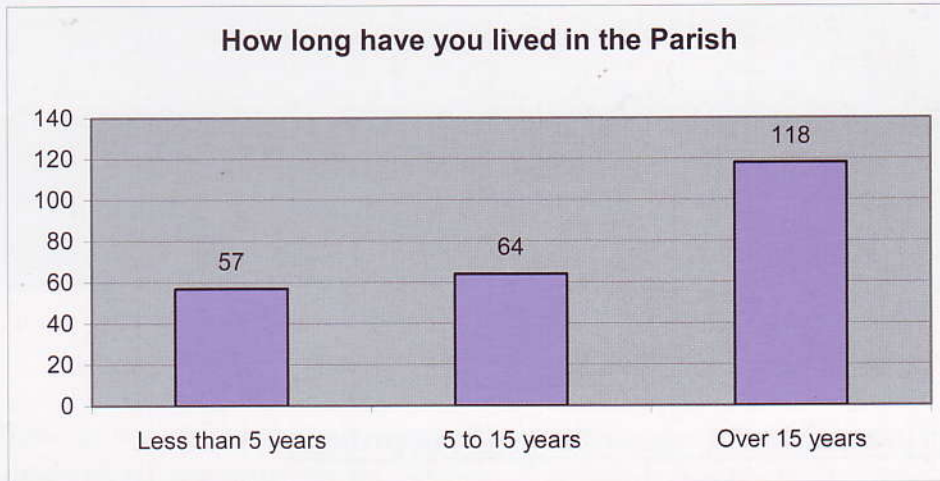
### DEMOGRAPHY

239 replies were received, but not all replies answered all the questions, which explains the discrepancy in numbers.

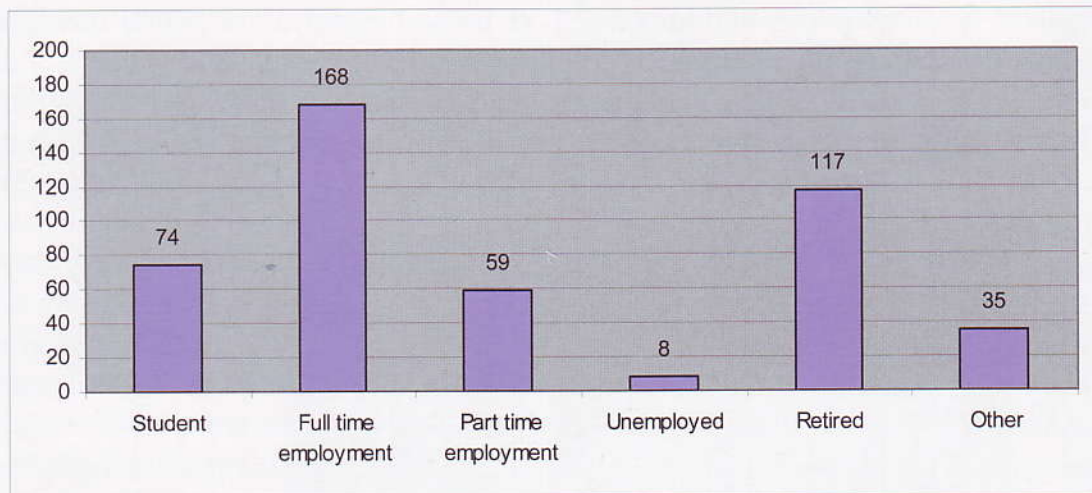
The demography shows most residents in the 26-65 age groups.



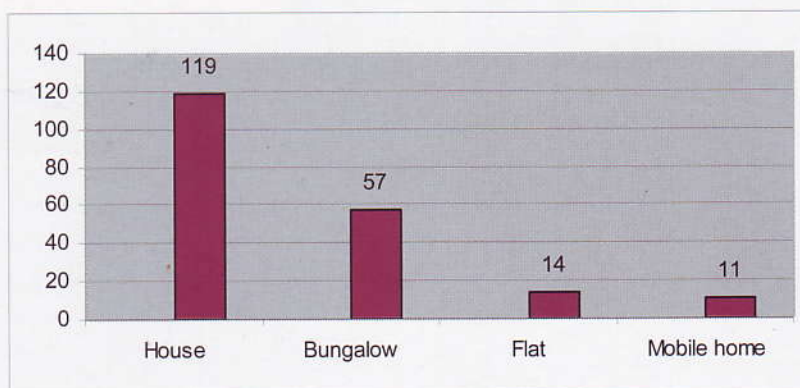
When asked how long they had lived in the parish, the population of the Parish is shown to be very stable.



It was especially pleasing to see how few residents were unemployed.



Most Questionnaires were returned from Houses and Bungalows.



There were many comments made, both in the returns and at the open days, regarding what people like or dislike about the village.

### **Summary of comments on what is most liked about parish**

Peaceful, quiet, friendly rural area with public rights of ways, park, Equestrian centres and bridleways, rural amenities, close proximity to towns.

### **Summary of comments on what is most disliked about parish**

No shop or community meeting place, speeding traffic with little, or no deterrents.

Too many noisy, heavy lorries using village and Manston Court Road as rat runs.

Lack of pathways, especially to large shopping centres, not enough buses or bus links.

Poorly maintained and poorly marked roads. No safe way of cycling or walking to shops.



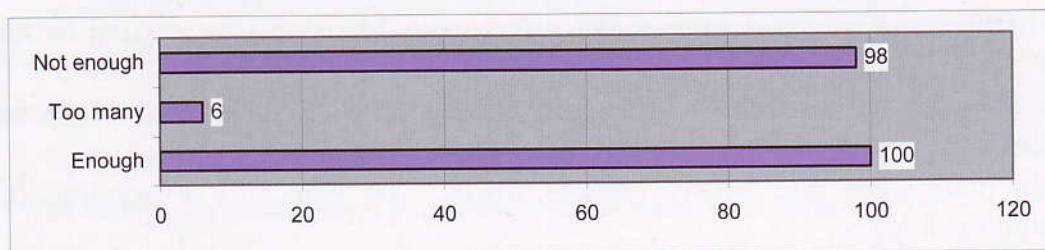
It was also noted that a sizeable minority of Parishioners are confused by the Parish Boundary and that areas, such as the Airport are outside the Parish.

## CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT

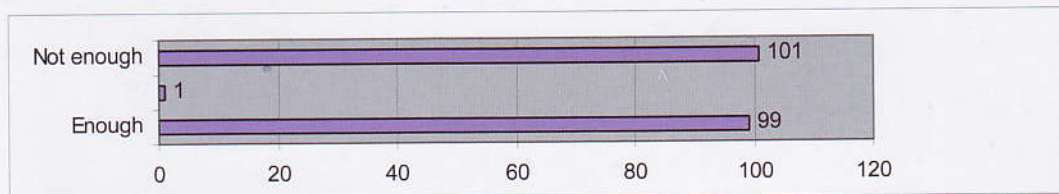


### Trees & Hedgerows

The replies to the question on the number of HEDGEROWS we currently have are as follows:-



Replies to the question on the number of TREES we currently have are as follows:-



The community was divided on the need for more trees or hedgerows. For those who suggested more hedgerows and trees, it is not advisable to plant close to the airport as they attract birds, which are dangerous for aircraft movements. An adverse comment was the danger of planting hedgerows on winding, rural roads and at junctions, which would result in bad traffic visibility.

Manston Court Road and Manston Road were top locations where trees should be planted.

### Plants

There was very strong support for planting on verges and over 60% of those who wanted plants on verges were willing to contribute or help to plant.



### Cycle Paths

Of those who responded there was a strong opinion in favour of cycle paths to the suggested destinations of Airport, Manston Road Tesco and Westwood and over 50% would cycle instead of driving.

Several of the comments requested routes to link up with the Viking Trail as well as Minster and Birchington. Many wanted designated cycle tracks off roads.

### Drainage on Roads

Whilst only a third of respondents were affected by blocked gullies and drains, the number of comments given show that the impact was substantial and that there was a problem over the entire parish, in particular Manston Court Road, junction of Preston Road/Manston Road and Flete Road.

### Air Pollution

75% of respondents would like air pollution checks throughout the parish. There were comments on bad odours from pressure release valves in Manston Road, also aircraft and traffic fumes.

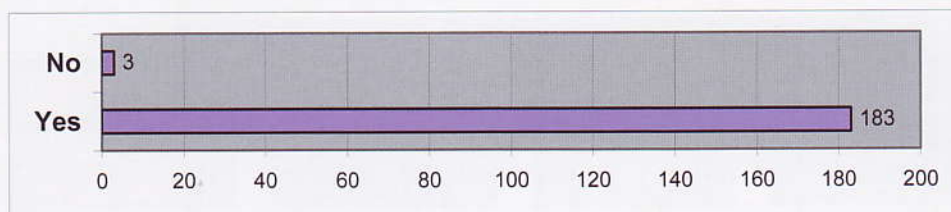
### Public Rights of Way

The large response received regarding Public Rights of Way showed that they were widely used throughout the parish. Various comments showed that maintenance needs to be carried out and regularly monitored. A number of horse riders find gates difficult to manipulate on bridleways

### Pavements

There were numerous comments on the lack of pavements, or narrowness of existing ones, throughout the whole Parish but in particular from Bradgate Caravan Park to Westwood Cross, and from Wood Farm Manston Road to Haine Road.

As can be seen from the chart below, an overwhelming majority voted in favour of retaining 'green wedges' around the parish.

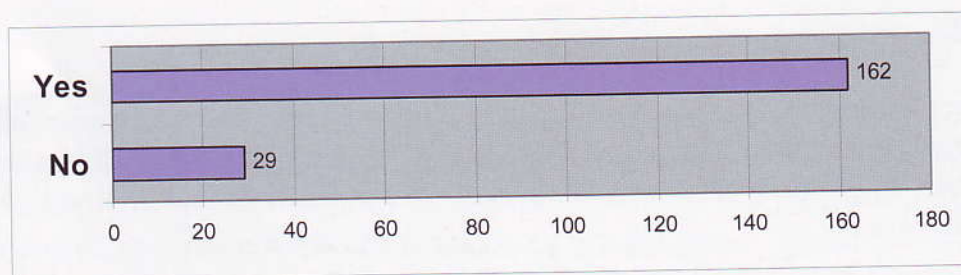


## TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

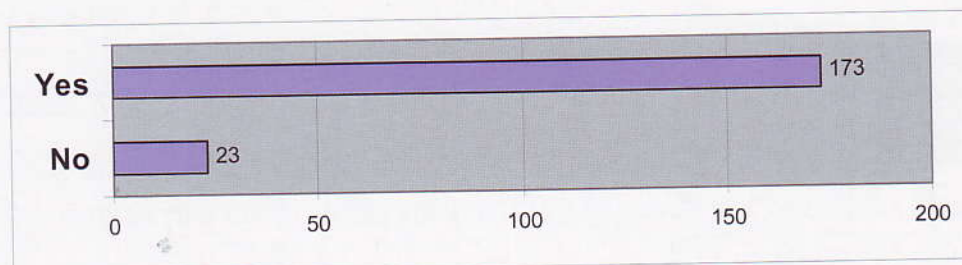
Of over 200 respondents some 10% regularly use the local bus services within the parish. Many of those who use the services rely on them and consider that they could be improved. There was a view that not enough buses run through the parish at the right times. In particular some felt that there should be more bus routes (along Manston Court Road for example), that there should be Sunday bus services, and that last return buses of the day should be later. Some also wanted to see more destinations, with a scheduled service going regularly from locations within the parish direct to Westwood for shopping and Minster for the doctors' surgery etc.

Over 80 % of respondents would welcome a traffic survey. There was a broad consensus in the comments offered by respondents that too much traffic goes through the area, especially commercial and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), threatening what remains of the semi-rural character of the parish. The volume passing through the village of Manston on the B2050 was a particular concern, but respondents were also worried that a number of other roads throughout the area, which had not been designed to take heavy traffic, were increasingly being used as rat runs. Some felt that this problem would worsen with the opening of the New Haine Road, and as a consequence of any major new housing development at Westwood and/or significant expansion of operations at Kent International Airport. Suggestions for tackling it range from the partial closure of certain roads, to introduction of weight and width restrictions to keep HGVs off some routes.

About 85% of respondents would welcome an audit of signage.



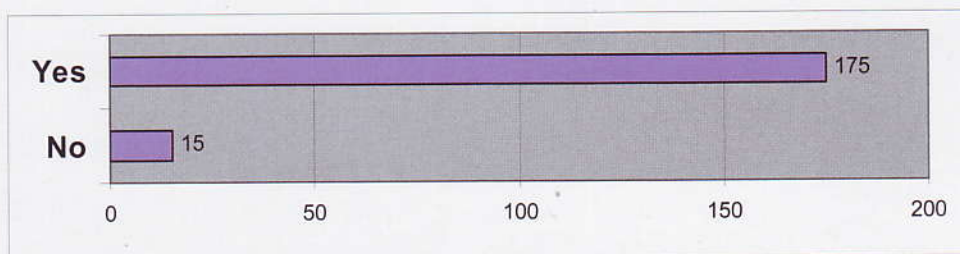
Nearly 90% consider that more action is needed to tackle a perceived problem of speeding traffic.



The related comments show that speeding traffic is not just seen as a problem in the village of Manston. Similar concerns were raised about other parts of the parish, including Manston Court Road (both the airport and Lydden ends) and around Woodchurch.

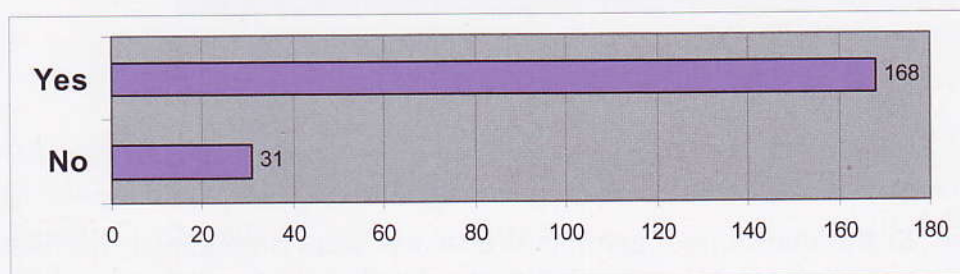
Among the measures suggested by respondents are more speed restrictions, more signs (including flashing and interactive signs), cameras and greater use of other traffic calming measures (road markings, speed bumps etc).

Over 90% of respondents would like an audit of visibility/sight lines in the village of Manston, as shown below.



The junction of the High Street, Manston Road and Preston Road is seen by many as a potential accident blackspot. Suggestions for reducing the danger included traffic lights, a pedestrian crossing, tighter speed restrictions and speed bumps.

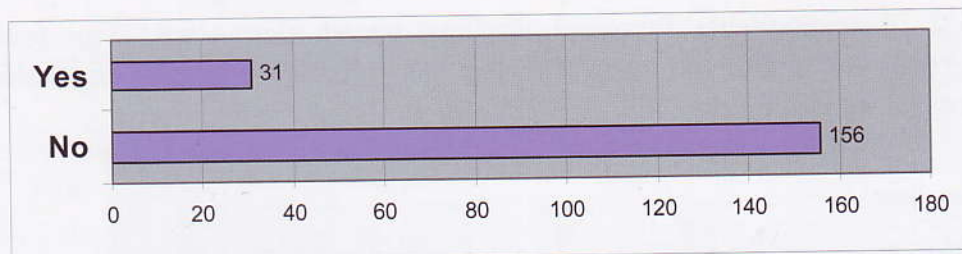
Nearly 85% of respondents favoured flashing speed alert signs. The few comments received on this reflected differing views as to the likely long-term effectiveness of such devices.



## HOUSING



Responses to involvement in the planning process were varied, but when asked, an overwhelming number did not think that there is any scope for further housing with the Parish Boundaries.



The answers to the questions regarding Westwood were ambiguous; the vast majority of comments were concerned with the development and further traffic problems, which would be caused throughout the Parish.

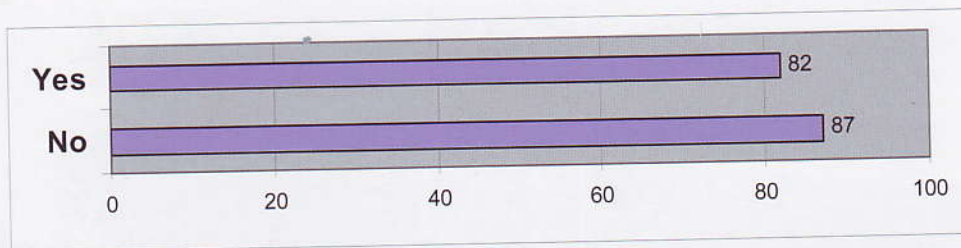
There were many comments reflecting a concern that Manston parish should not be degraded by inappropriate or excessive development in uncharacteristic style or size. The rural aspect of the parish is deemed to be most important and minimal housing development would preserve this value.

The loss of identity of the existing parish was a major worry, as when the proposed housing at Westwood is built, it will be on land that is at the moment within the Manston Parish Boundary

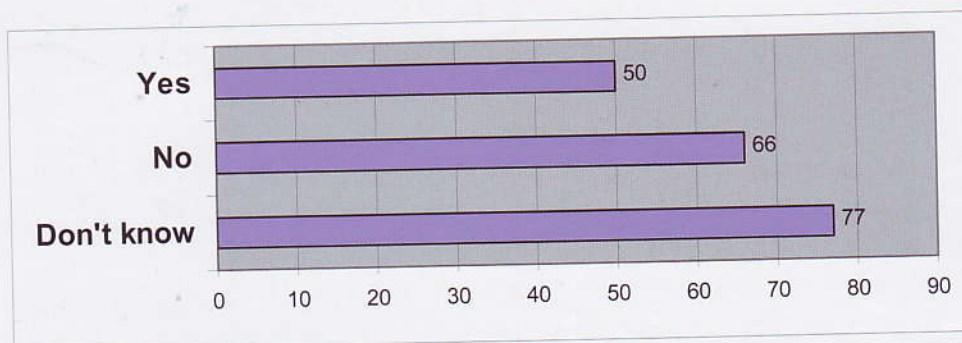
The question regarding whether the development at Westwood would have an impact on the village of Manston gave us the following results:



The uncertainty of Parishioners regarding the current boundary of the Parish gave us a confusing result when asking whether the Boundaries should be altered because of the Westwood Housing Development. When speaking to residents since the questionnaire it was assumed by them that Westwood was not in the Parish already, but in fact it is, so the responses therefore are not an accurate reading.



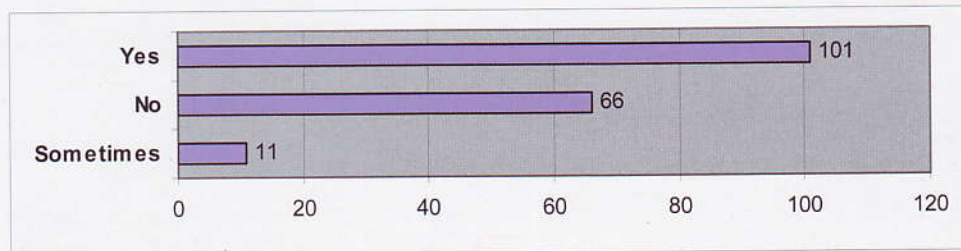
When asked if there was enough opportunity for Parishioners to become involved in the planning process of any new development, the answer was very evenly distributed.



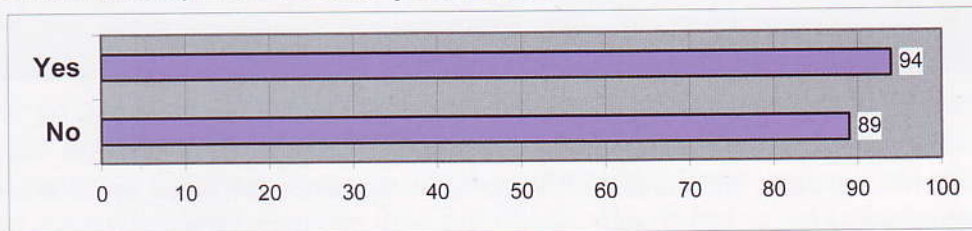
## BUSINESS

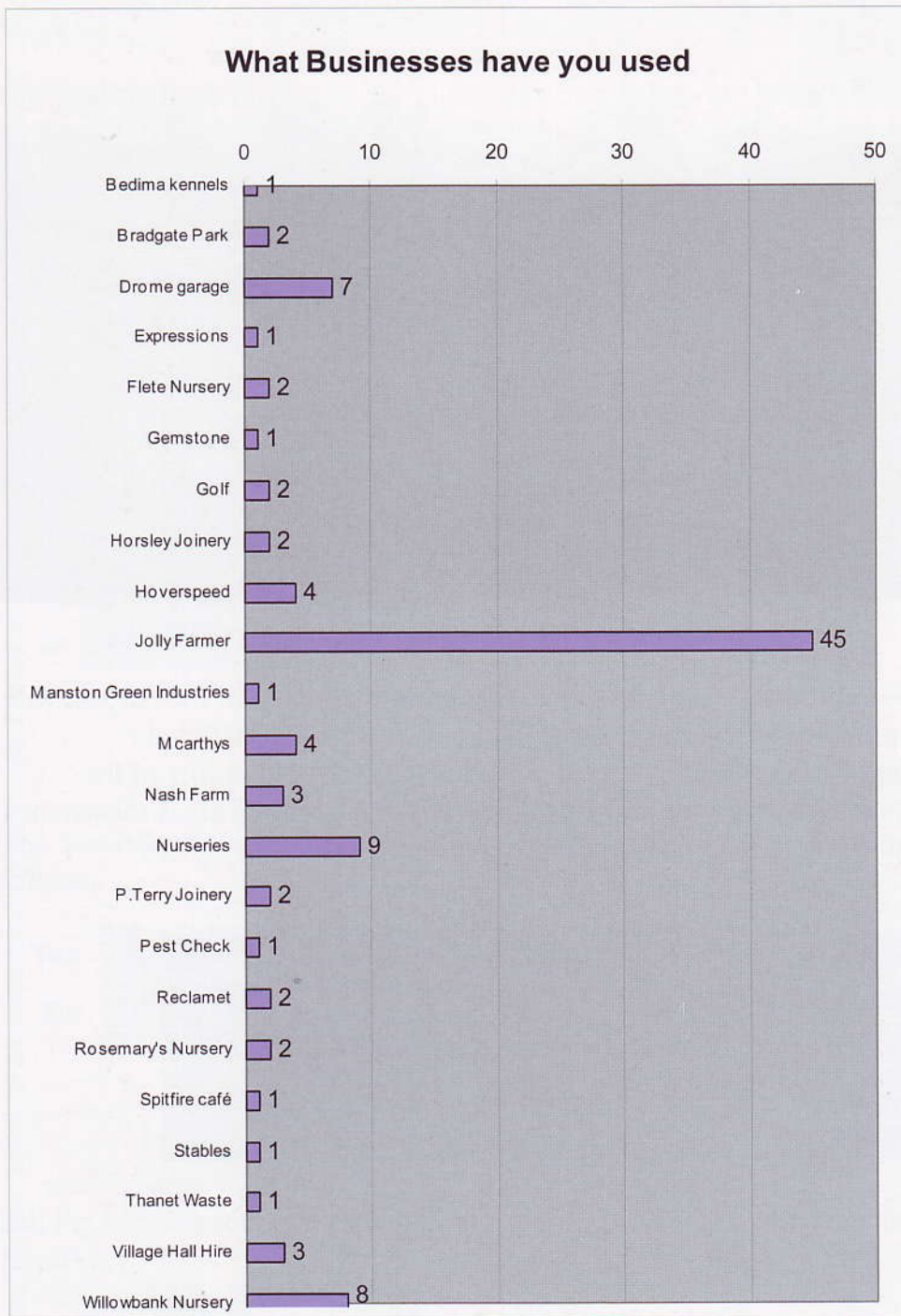
In this section questions were asked on a variety of subjects relating to the parish.

The first question was 'do you work within 5 miles of where you live?' this showed that 60% of working respondents were contributing to the local economy.

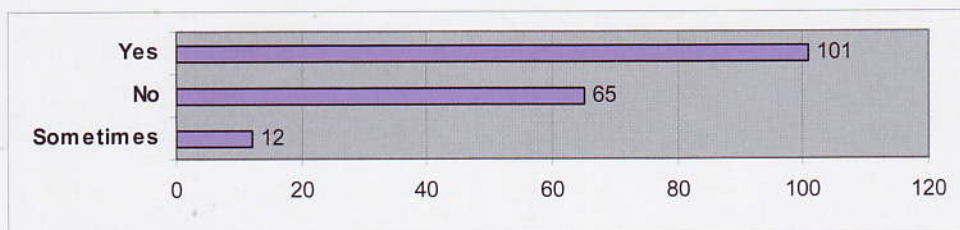


Also it was shown that over 50% of residents had used local businesses in the last 6 months, and which they had used:



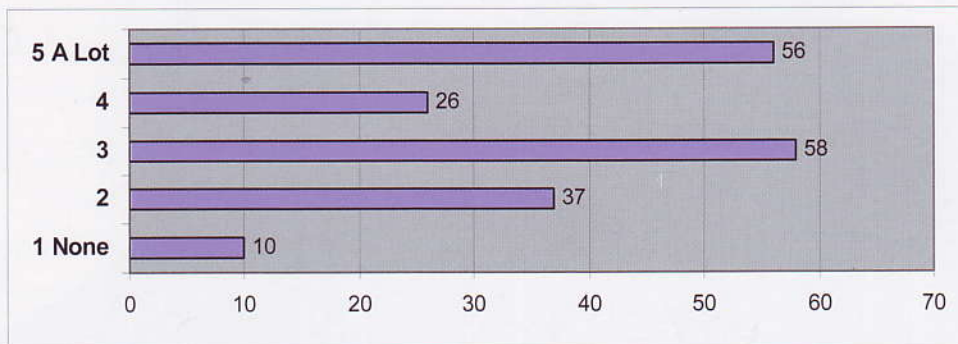


The next question was regarding the development of disused commercial sites, which shows minor objection.





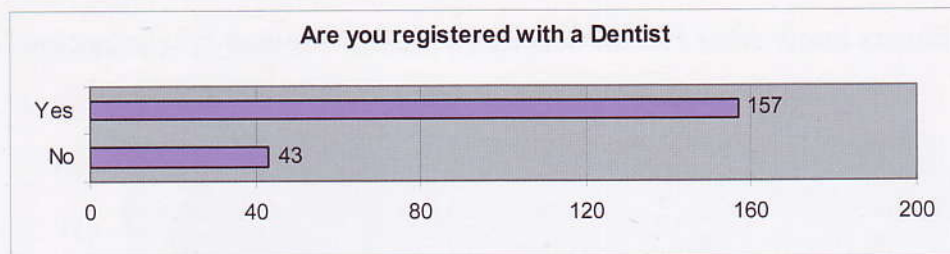
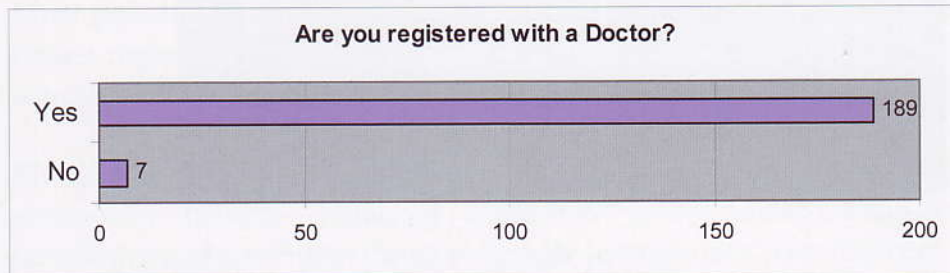
Lastly in this section a clear majority thought that expansion of the Airport will have a significant impact on the Parish, but positive feeling included Employment, Business and Travel opportunities. A large number of the negative comments referred to Traffic Noise and Pollution. This is shown on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being No Impact and 5 a lot.



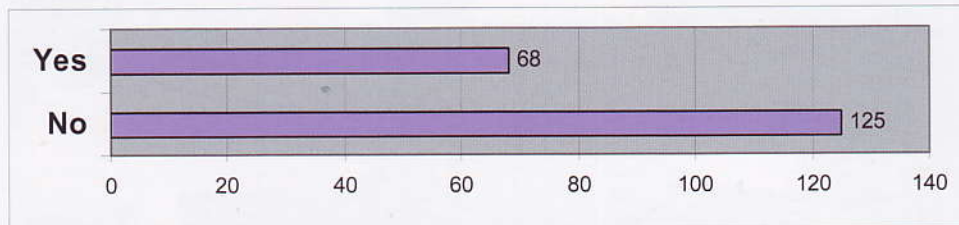


## HEALTH

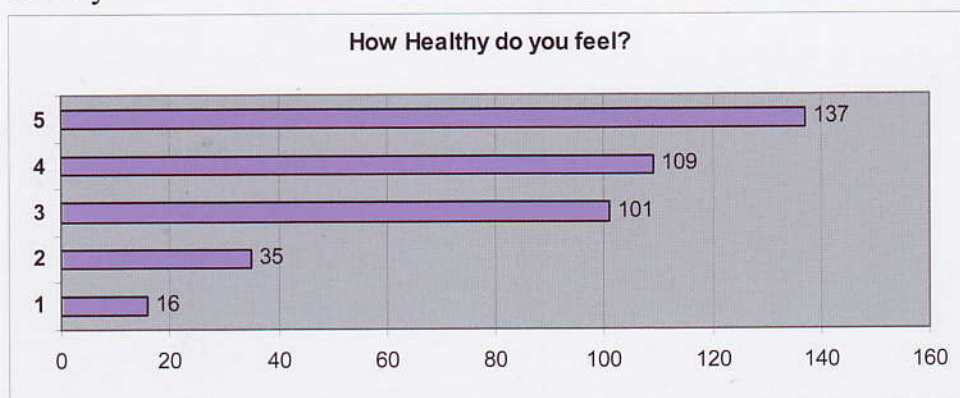
It was pleasing to read from the questionnaires that a very large section of the Parish is registered with a Doctor, and a smaller but still significant amount registered with a Dentist.



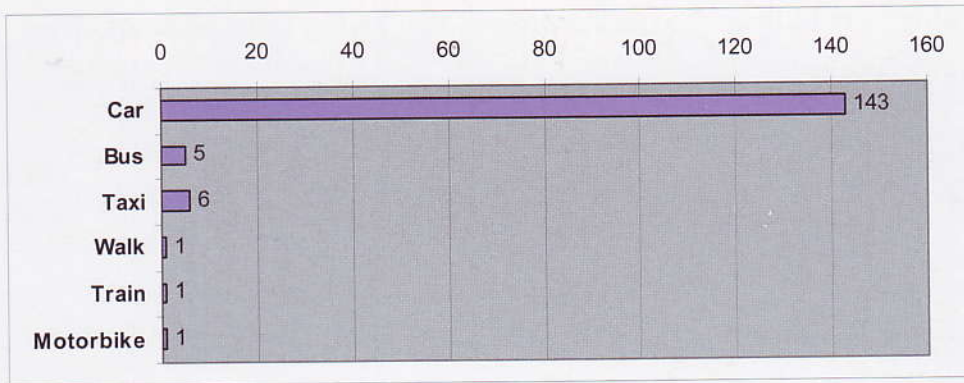
The question asking are you a member of a Health Club? was answered as follows:



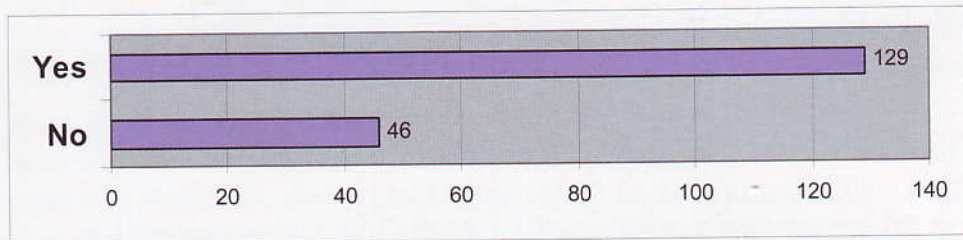
But the Parishioners appeared to feel healthy: Where 1 is unhealthy and 5 Healthy



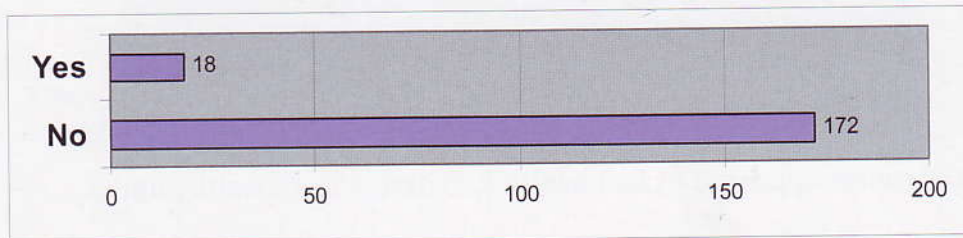
The most preferred way to travel to the Doctors was by Car.



Most Parishioners know what Health Services are available and how to access them



The last question regarding Health was if anybody had problems accessing medical care



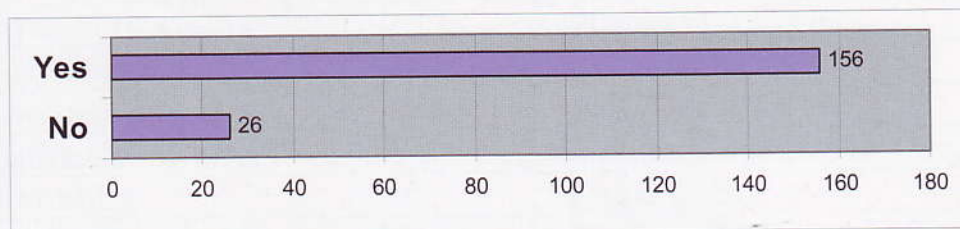
## COMMUNITY, CHURCH AND PARISH COUNCIL

There was considerable support for additional community facilities. This included support for an extension to St Catherine's Church to provide for community use, also a small shop facility.

Most people appeared content with the business of the Parish Council. Some issues regarding communication between the Parish Council and Parishioners were noted.

There was much support for the newsletter as a means of communication around the district. However, there were a few points on the content of the newsletter and some Parishioners appear to miss out on its delivery.

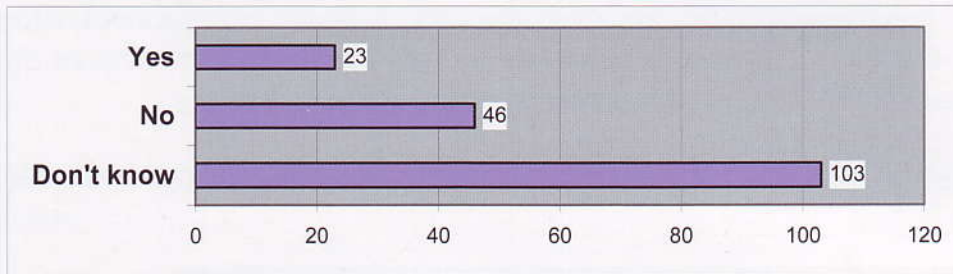
Asked if the Newsletter is satisfactory?



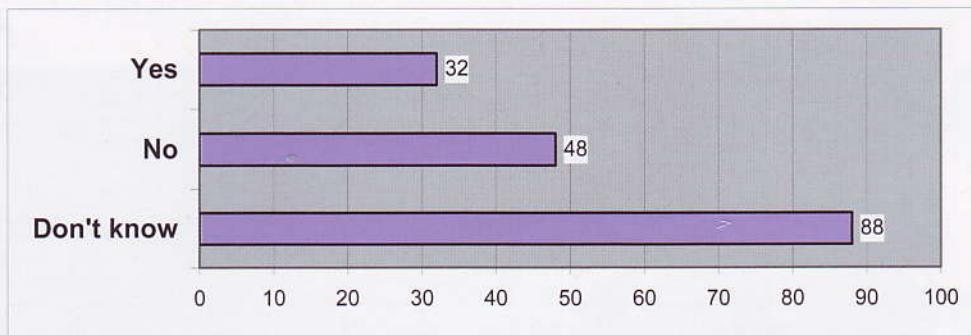
## ART SPORT AND RECREATION

The Questionnaire showed that the majority of respondents were unaware of the Art, Sport and Recreational activities that are available in the Parish, but thought that the recreational resources were adequate.

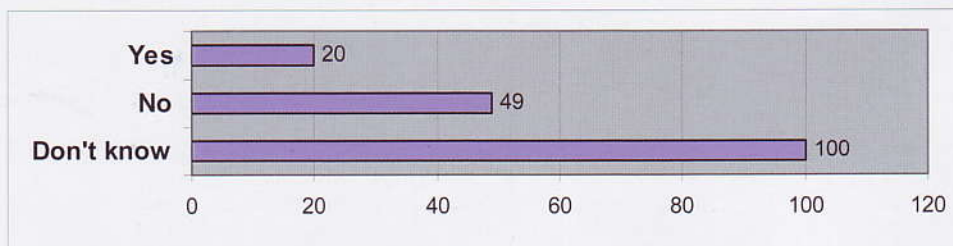
Do you think there is sufficient opportunity within the Parish for Artistic activities?



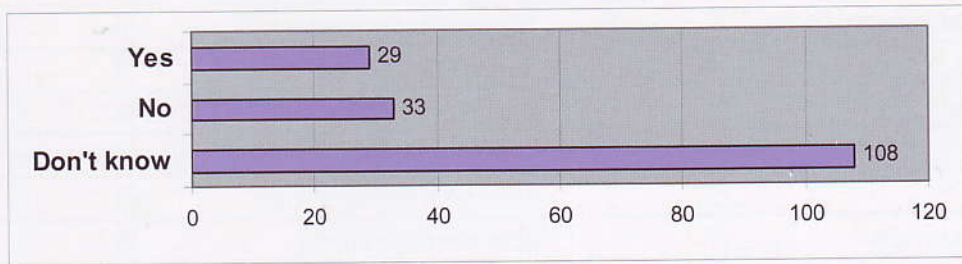
Do you think there is sufficient opportunity within the Parish for Sporting activities?



Do you think there is sufficient opportunity within the Parish for Educational activities?



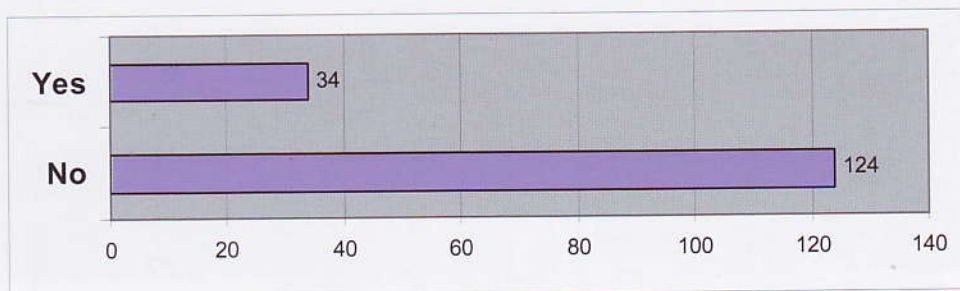
Do you think there is sufficient opportunity within the Parish for other recreational activities?



A Question was put regarding the involvement of parishioners if any activities were to be available. It was found that there would be interest in all of the Clubs and Societies suggested, with the following results:

Annual flower/veg show	26	Historical society	25
Art classes	21	Homework club	5
Badminton	31	Keep fit classes	46
Book club	23	Language classes	27
Brownies	10	Parent toddler group	17
Coffee mornings	19	Photography club	23
Computer classes	38	Scouts/cubs	11
Church activities	19	Slimming club	25
Cycling	24	Sunday school	10
Dance classes	35	Walking group	32
Flower arranging	25	Wine tasting	26
Football team	12	Youth club	15
Gardening club	28	Youth disco	13

When asked "would you be prepared to help set up these groups?" There was some positive feedback.



The next chart details the list of classes/facilities that Parishioners feel they would be able to help organize and run.

Annual flower/veg show	7	Historical society	6
Art classes	10	Homework club	4
Badminton	8	Keep fit classes	6
Book club	3	Language classes	4
Brownies	3	Parent toddler group	3
Coffee mornings	7	Photography club	6
Computer classes	7	Scouts/cubs	4
Church activities	4	Slimming club	1
Cycling	5	Sunday school	3
Dance classes	7	Walking group	8
Flower arranging	5	Wine tasting	5
Football team	3	Youth club	8
Gardening club	9	Youth disco	6

The question relating to times of classes/instruction etc was answered as being more suitable to Evenings and Weekends.

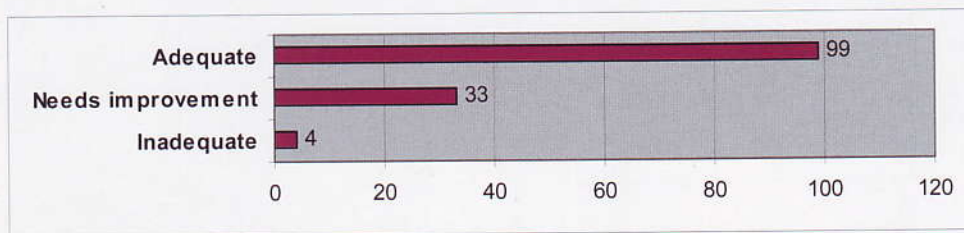


The following answers were given to the question regarding Parishioners 'wish list', should additional funding be available, for any other recreational activities in the Parish

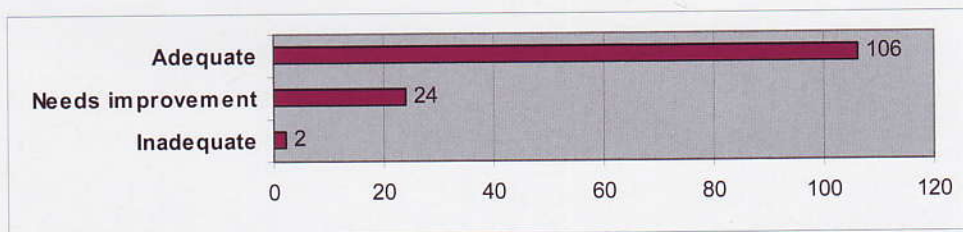
Cycle Paths	68
Library	39
Computer centre	34
Gymnasium	31
Hard surfaced sports area	24
Drop in centre	22

The remaining questions in this section relate to Parishioners feelings toward the resources already in the parish

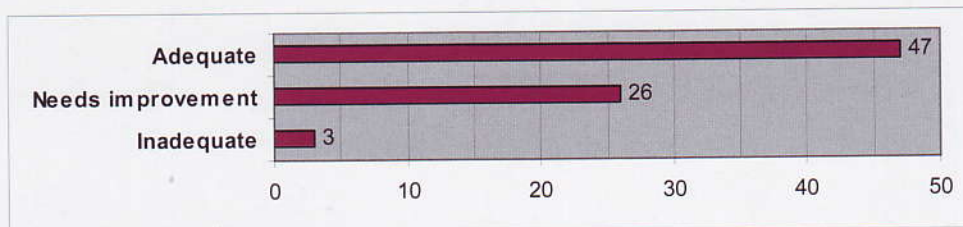
#### MANSTON PARK



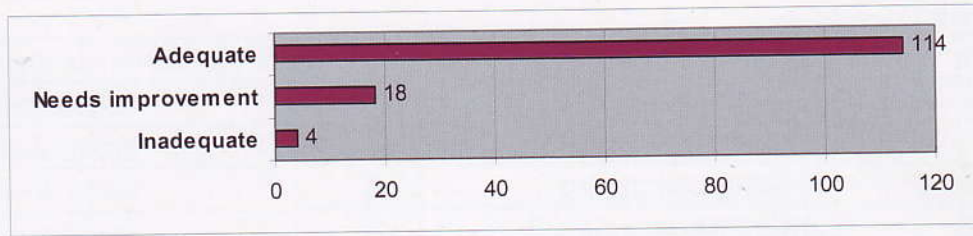
#### VILLAGE HALL



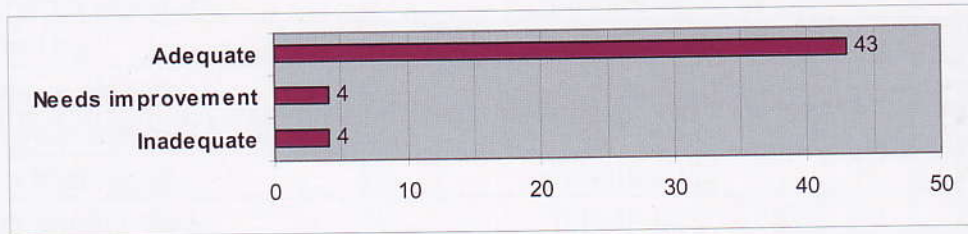
#### HOVERSPEED CLUB



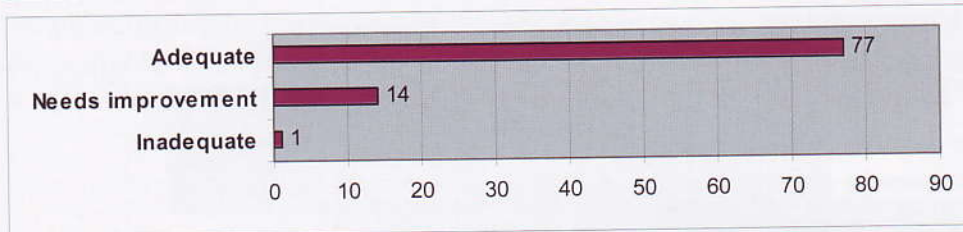
## JOLLY FARMER



## DAY NURSERY

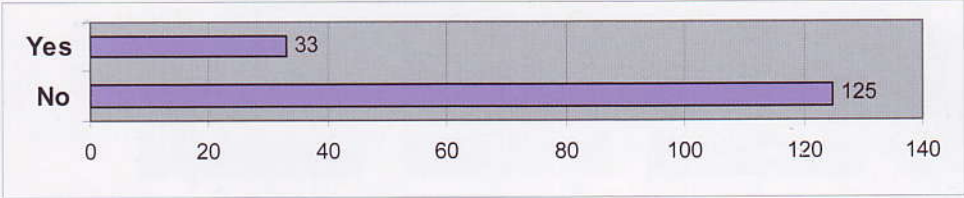


## CHURCH





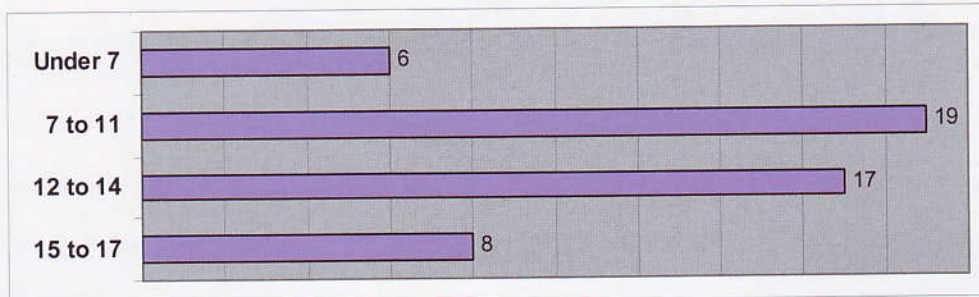
It was felt by Adults completing the survey that there is not enough for children to do in the Parish, as shown below.



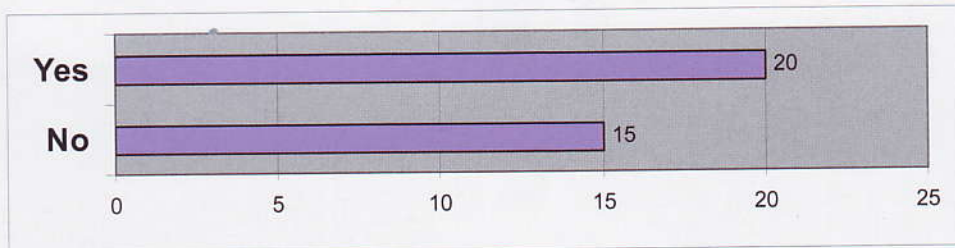
## YOUNG PEOPLES QUESTIONNAIRE



The ages of the Young Parishioners who responded are as follows:

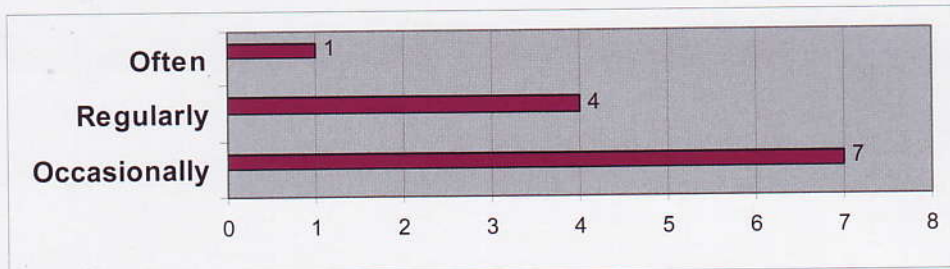


Asked about Cycle Paths more than 50% of respondents said they would appreciate more Cycle Paths.

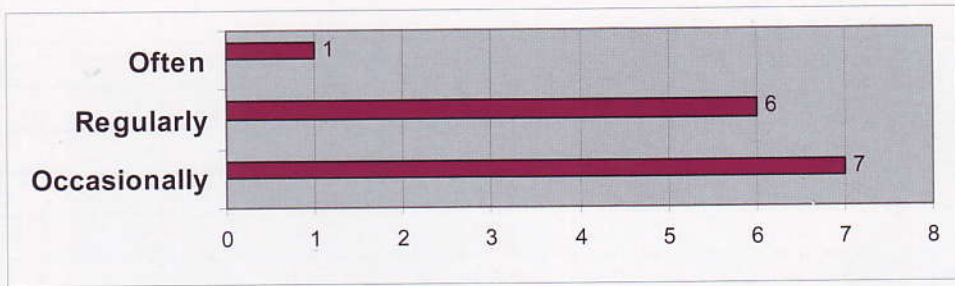


When asked what Cycle Paths Young Parishioners would use, they replied as follows.

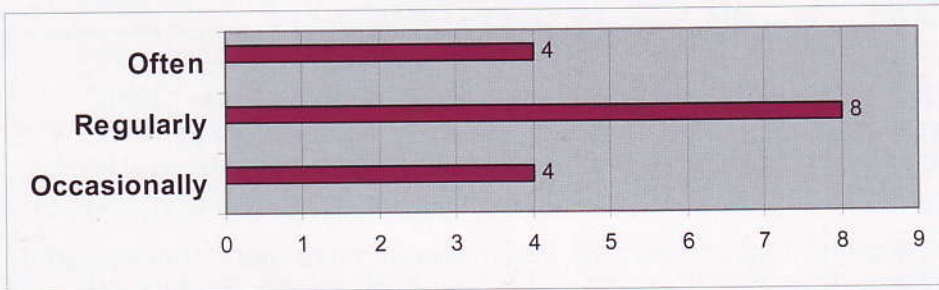
I would use a cycle path to the Airport



I would use a cycle path to Manston Rd Tesco

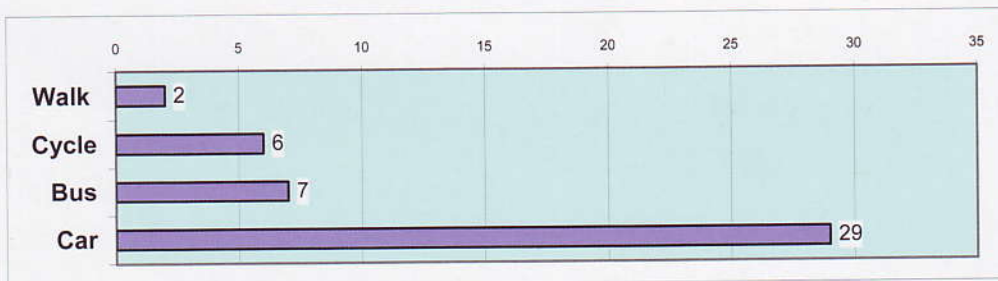


I would use a cycle path to Westwood



The lack of Cycle Paths and Pavements was the main subject of comments given in the Young Parishioners section.

“How do you travel to school and activities?” were as follows.

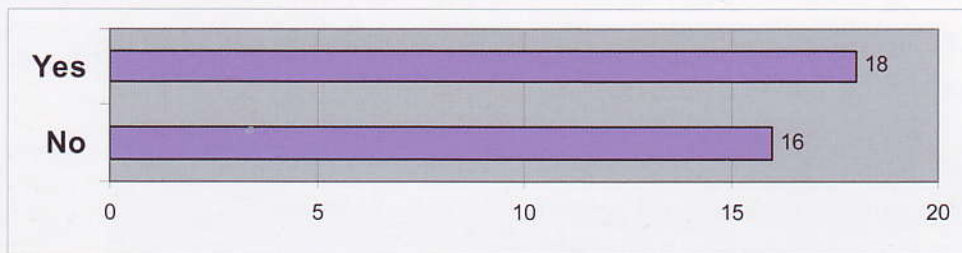


We asked if the young people would like to become involved in clubs/societies in the Parish:

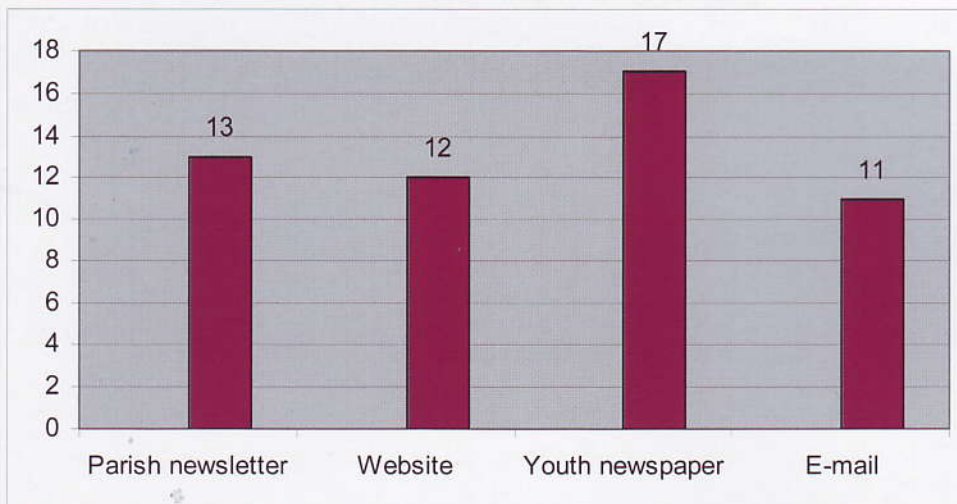
Annual flower/veg show	1	Football	10
Art classes	7	Gardening club	2
Badminton	8	Historical society	2
Book club	5	Homework club	5
Brownies	6	Keep fit	10
Church activities	6	Language classes	1
Computer classes	5	Photography club	1
Cub/Scouts	6	Sunday school	5
Cycling	8	Walking	5
Dance classes	9	Youth club	15
Flower arranging	0	Youth disco	11

The vast majority of Young People felt safe whilst using the park. Some comments were made that the Park needs an Aerial Slide/Ropeway.

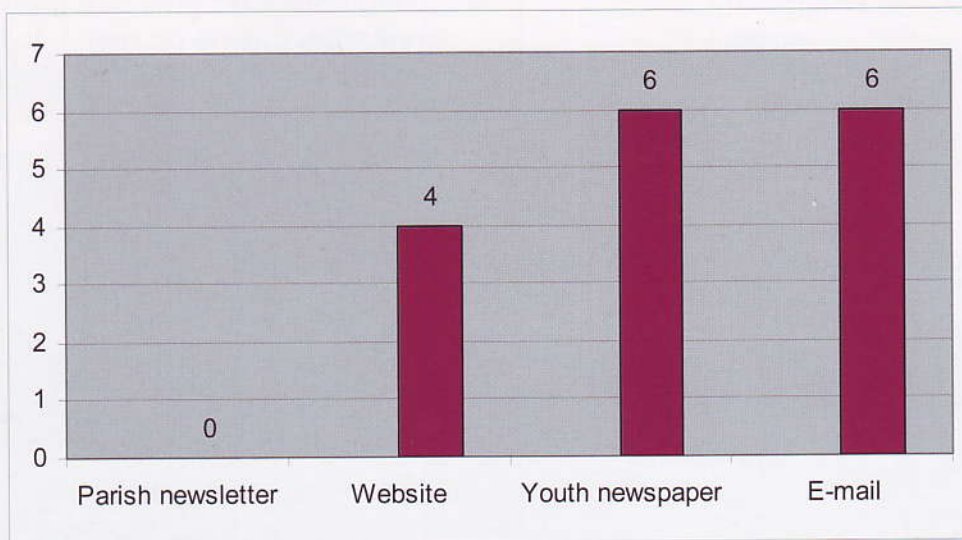
Respondents were split on whether the Parish should have more done to make it green and clean.



When asked how they would like to be informed of events in the Parish the following figures were obtained



And also the question of which they would be prepared to help with:



From the comments given Young People find the Parish to be Quiet Friendly Safe and Rural with open spaces but close to the facilities available in Thanet.

They disliked too much traffic going through the Parish, and stated that there is not enough to do in the Parish.





## MANSTON PARISH ACTION PLAN

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>PRIORITY</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>TIMESCALE</u>
Protection of Trees and Hedgerows	Felling of trees and hedgerows needs to be restricted. Verges and hedgerows need to be planted up. A possible coalition of parishioners with the advice of the Garden Club.	Medium	TDC / KCC	ASAP
Conservation areas need to be retained.	Parishioners need to be aware of possible threats to conservation areas and look to protect wildlife areas.	Medium	All Parishioners to notify their Parish Councillor of any problems	Ongoing
A total lack of Cycle Paths	Parish Council and TDC to lobby KCC and Kent Highways to provide suitable Cycle Paths	High	Parish Council TDC KCC Kent Highways	ASAP
Drainage on Roads	Ensure that drains are free at all times of leaves and rubbish and free flowing.	High	TDC Kent Highways	Ongoing
Air Pollution	There needs to be an ongoing monitoring system, possibly mobile, that is monitored at all times.	High	Environmental Health Office / TDC / KCC	ASAP

Rubbish and obstructions on Public Rights of Way	This needs to be monitored and kept clear throughout the year, to ensure permanent access to everyone. Natural vegetation growth needs to be sympathetically controlled throughout the year.	High	KCC and possible Independent working group	Ongoing
Bus Services are insufficient in the parish.	To press the bus operators for improvements to Parish services.	Medium	Parish Council to contact TDC and liaise with Bus Companies.	On publication of the Action Plan
Too much traffic goes through the parish. A traffic survey has been asked for by 90% of Parishioners.	To ask KCC for a Traffic Survey on Manston Road B2050, Manston Court Road and Manston Road Margate.	High	Parish Council KCC Kent Highways	On publication of the Parish Plan.
The increased number of commercial vehicles, especially heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), going through parts of the parish.	To ask KCC/TDC to introduce Width and Weight restrictions.	High	Parish Council to pursue with KCC/TDC.	As soon as possible
Speeding traffic causing problems at certain locations in the parish.	To ask for further measures to be taken to slow traffic (including traffic signage and static and mobile interactive signs)	High	The Parish Council to pursue with KCC Highway Services, TDC and Kent Police.	As soon as possible.
Parishioners were in favour of an audit of road signage and sight lines in the Parish.	To seek an audit of road signage and sight lines in the Parish.	Medium	The Parish Council to pursue with KCC Highway Services, TDC and Kent Police.	As soon as possible.
A confusing Parish Boundary.	Better publicity of the Parish Boundaries, with up-dated maps on display. Parish Boundaries to be reviewed	Medium	Parish Council for maps.. TDC to review Parish Boundary	As soon as possible

Unsuitable developments within the Parish. Parishioners unaware of how to obtain information on Planning.	Greater Parishioner participation in Planning Applications (Planning Applications are published in the Parish Newsletter and <a href="http://www.ukplanning.com/thanet/">www.ukplanning.com/thanet/</a> )	Medium	Parish Council and Parishioners	Ongoing
Requests for regular surgery involving the Community Warden, Police, Parish Council & Vicar	This has started with the Community Warden. Ask others for possible surgeries	Medium	Liaise with Police, Parish Council and Vicar	ASAP
A lack of shop or community meeting place	Investigate possibilities for additional meeting room for the Church	High	Liaise with church	ASAP
More accommodation needed for new clubs and social gatherings	Investigate possibilities for additional meeting room for the Church	High	Liaise with church	ASAP
Some Parishioners miss out on delivery of the Newsletter	If affected contact the Parish Council. Spares are available in the Jolly Farmer and Village Hall	Low	Parishioners	ASAP
Residents unaware of what activities are available in the Parish	Parish Magazine to list existing clubs/events etc that meet in the parish.	High	Liaise with Parish Council and Magazine editorial.	As soon as possible
Parishioners unaware of the Mobile Library visits	Better advertising for the Mobile Library	Medium	Liaise with Parish Council and Magazine	As soon as possible
Parishioners have requested further Clubs/ societies	Ask those who said they could help to contact the steering group or Parish Council.	Medium	Steering group and Parish Council	As soon as possible





## YOUNG PARISHIONERS MANSTON PARISH ACTION PLAN

Lack of cycle paths and pavements	To lobby for an increase in the number of Pavements and cycle paths	High	Parish Council to contact TDC and Kent Highways	As soon as possible
No method of contacting young people within the Parish	Provide space in the monthly newsletter solely for young people. One or two young parishioners to collate an email list and send a monthly email	High	Volunteers needed	As soon as possible
Young people thought there was a lack of groups / clubs / activities in the Parish	To encourage those interested to contact the Parish Council	High	Volunteers needed	As soon as possible
A lack of dog bins throughout the Parish	Advise Parish Council in regard to the wishes or residents	High	Parish Council / TDC	As soon as possible
Aerial slide / runway wanted in park	To advise Parish Council of young parishioners wishes	Medium	Parish Council	As soon as possible



## Useful contacts:

Abandoned Vehicles	01843 577066
Citizens Advice Bureau	01843 225973
Crime (Non Urgent)	01843 231055
Crime (report anonymously)	0800 555111
Dog Warden	01843 577580
Domestic Violence	01843 299699
Fire Safety	01843 863015
Flytipping	07771 944096
Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Hospital QEQM (A&E)	01843 225544
Housing (TDC)	01843 577221
Kent County Council	08458 247247
Kent Highways	08458 247800
Neighbourhood Watch	01843 222214
Parking Complaints	01843 577470
Police (Village)	07989 992283
Police (Non Emergency)	01622 690690
Racial Incidents	0800 138 1624
Rural Community Warden	07969 584182
St. Catherine's Church Office	01843 592478
St. Catherine's Vicar	01843 594160
Street Lighting	08458 247800
Thanet Dist. Council	01843 577000
Trading Standards	0845 3450210
Village Hall	01843 823550
Waste Services (TDC)	01843 577115
Water Emergency	0800 820999

Manston Parish Council email: [manstonparishcouncil@fsmail.net](mailto:manstonparishcouncil@fsmail.net)

The Manston Parish Council letterbox is on the wall of the Village Hall.

## **HELP NEEDED**

If you think you can help with the implementation of any part of this plan, please contact Manston Parish Council



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks go to the members of the Parish Plan Steering Group, Manston Parish Council, Thanet District Council and Action with Rural Communities in Kent for their help with producing the Manston Parish Plan.

Also thanks go to all those who supplied images to use in this publication.

Last, but not least, thanks to all those residents who attended our public meetings and filled in the questionnaire.