

Aldermaston

# Parish Plan 2005



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# THE PROCESS

## Parish Council Initiative

In April 2004 the Parish Council held an Open Meeting of the Parish to promote a Parish Plan.

## Why have a Parish Plan?

The Government wants local communities to take more control of their own lives, to say what they want doing in their own neighbourhoods and to engage with other powers to get it done. The Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next ten years. It will provide a means of influencing decisions on planning and community strategies and be a basis for action by people in the Parish. The Statutory Planning System has recently undergone some major changes. West Berkshire Council is preparing the new Local Development Framework. Community involvement will be at the heart of this new system and the planning policies will be expected to meet community aspirations. At the initial meeting we received guidance from the Parish Plan Development Worker from Community Action West Berkshire, Sarah Ward, and were told of the experiences of other parishes which had already produced their Plans.

## The Steering Group.

At the Open Meeting volunteers were called for to form a Steering Group. The Group eventually formed included two Parish Councillors ex-officio, persons from most of the geographically diverse settlements in the Parish and from local businesses. Two teenagers were co-opted to ensure the views of the younger generation in the Parish were received. The age range of the Group was from fourteen to seventy five years. At the initial Open Meeting parishioners were asked to post their "concerns and aspirations" on a notice board. Having analysed these the Steering Group set up Working Groups to cover all the topics raised.

## Working Groups

Environment, Planning – Housing and Industrial Development

Highways and Public Transport

Parish Amenities – Social, Educational, Sports and Recreation, and Entertainments

Health and Community Services

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

## Funding

The Parish Council Clerk successfully applied for a grant from "Awards for All" (part of the National Lottery). The grant was for £5000 to be matched by £1,000 from the Parish Council.

## The Consultation Process

For a Parish Plan to be robust and credible it must reflect the views of the whole Parish Community. Therefore a questionnaire was developed to give everyone a chance to

share ideas about living and working in the Parish. This was based on well proven University of Gloucester “Parish Appraisal” software customised to Aldermaston. The software was donated by the Greenham Common Trust. The questionnaire was distributed to all households. There was a return rate of 81%.

We were advised that this main Questionnaire was inappropriate for the residents of the ‘Travellers’ sites at Old Stocks Farm on Paices Hill. The requirement to consult them was therefore met by a specially designed questionnaire and interview process. A report was prepared by the two Parish Councillors involved.

A Supplementary Youth Questionnaire was completed by 35 young parishioners.

Aldermaston Parish is exceptional in the number of businesses, both large and small, within the boundaries. The number of employees far exceeds the resident population of the Parish. It was, therefore, considered imperative to give the business community an opportunity to participate in developing the Parish Plan. A modified Business Questionnaire was distributed to 117 businesses. There was a return rate of 69%.

Following the analysis of the Household Questionnaire, the results were presented at a further Open Meeting for parishioners when they had the opportunity to discuss and prioritise issues to be taken on for action.

Both the Household and Business Questionnaire results together with a commentary were posted on the Parish Council Website [www.aldermaston.co.uk](http://www.aldermaston.co.uk)

### Action Plans (See page 35)

Following the Consultation Process, each Working Group produced an Action Plan.

These were consolidated and discussed with the Parish Council, appropriate Officers of West Berkshire Council, Community Action West Berkshire and the Kennet and Pang Area Forum.

# GEOGRAPHY

Aldermaston is a relatively large and ancient Parish within the Unitary Authority of West Berkshire Council, equidistant between the three towns of Reading to the east, Newbury to the west and Basingstoke to the south. It lies in the Kennet Valley stretching from the A4 in the north, along the busy A340 trunk road to the Parish's southern boundary abutting the Hampshire border at the small town of Tadley, to which this part of the Parish looks for services.

The Parish has a mix of residential, industrial and rural areas. There are several discrete residential settlements. The Wharf, a development of 37 houses built in 1995, is adjacent to the Kennet and Avon Canal. The old Village of Aldermaston, one of the loveliest in Berkshire, and now a Conservation Area, sits astride the A340 just south of the crossing of the River Kennet. Falcon Fields at the southern limit of the Parish has some 57 dwellings including a recent development of 30 new ones. Each of these is served by a public house, The Butts Inn adjacent to The Wharf, The Hind's Head in the Village and The Falcon at Falcon Fields. To the east of the Village are settlements at Raghill abutting to Padworth Parish and Soke Road to Silchester Parish. There is a long established large mobile home park, with 113 dwellings, at Ravenswing in the south-east, which is isolated from the rest of the Parish and a smaller site of 34 dwellings nearer to the Village at Pinelands. On Paices Hill (A340), at Old Stocks Farm, is a well established Travellers' caravan site which has two separately administered parts for permanent (20 units with approximately 50 adults and 30 children) and transient residents (up to 30 adults and 10 children).

In the planning pipeline are developments of 29 houses off Fisherman's Lane and 99 in Mill Lane just across the boundary in Padworth Parish.

Surrounding the settlements is rural countryside of fields, water meadows, woodland and common heathland.

The gravel deposits of the Kennet Valley floor are of high quality and have been extensively extracted over many years. Aldermaston Parish has had more than a fair share of this activity. Active workings are current at Butts Lake and Rag Hill sites. The Butts Lake Quarry is in the process of being developed as a nature reserve. The flooded lakes have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Gravel extraction is due to cease in 2008 when the Reserve will be fully open to the public for recreational use. The site has been purchased by English Nature and is managed by Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). Access is from the towpath off the canal a quarter of a mile west of Aldermaston Lock. A further Country Park has been established on the site of old quarries and woodland at Paices Wood, with access through Young's Industrial Estate on Paices Hill.

Near to the confluence of the rivers Enborne and Kennet, just north of the Village, is the Old Mill, now a popular venue for celebratory events and for anglers. The Aldermaston and



*New homes at Falcon Fields*



*The Butt Inn*



*The Hinds Head*



*The Falcon*



*Ravenswing Mobile Home Park*

*Paices Wood*





*Fun and games at The Aldermaston and Wasing Show*

Wasing Show, a major event in the Parish Calendar, is held annually in the attractive grounds.

Close to the village, to the south of Church Road, is Aldermaston Court, with the Manor Hotel and Conference Centre together with an office buildings complex.

The main industrial area abuts Paices Hill (A340). The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) occupies a large triangular area of the parish to the east of the road. It is also bounded by Church Road/Red Lane and Reading/Burghfield Roads (285 hectares) and with approximately 4,000 employees is by far the largest employer. To the west of the road are the Calleva Estate with 130 businesses and Young's Industrial Estate with 44 businesses. In the south of the Parish on Silchester Road is Stacey's Industrial Site. Other smaller industrial sites are at Frouds Lane, Rag Hill and Soke Road.

A feature of the landscape along the waterways of the Kennet Valley is the willow trees.

A small industry of growing and processing cricket bat willows has survived on part of Old Village Farm in Fisherman's Lane since the 1930's. Stacks of the sawn clefts ready to be formed into cricket bats may still be seen.



*Willow logs for cricket bats*



*Aldermaston Court*

*The Old Mill on the River Kennet*



## A BRIEF HISTORY

The name Aldermaston was first recorded in 1066 in the Domesday Book. It was written as Aeldremanestone which in Old English means Alderman's Homestead. In 1066 the Village answered for 15 hides (120 acres) and consisted of land for 30 ploughs, 36 villagers and 12 smallholders, 2 slaves, a mill, two fisheries, a church, a meadow, woodland and 30 pigs in all to a value of 20 pounds and 10 shillings.

For hundreds of years the Church and Manor at Aldermaston Court have been the focal point of the village they owned. In the XIth century the Lordship of the Manor came into the possession of William the Conqueror. In 1100 King Henry granted Aldermaston to one of his faithful knights, Robert Achard. The title then passed down through the centuries to the last resident Lord of the Manor and owner of The Court Estate, Charles Keyser, who bought it in 1893 from Daniel Higford Burr. Higford Burr had built the present Manor to replace the original that burned down in 1843. In addition to Aldermaston Court Charles Keyser bought surrounding farms; Forsters, Upper and Lower Church, Park, Soke and Raghill; the cricket ground; The Mill; the school; the public house; residential houses and cottages; in fact all of the Village with the exception of the Church and the Churchwardens' Land in Fisherman's Lane. The total estate was over 1,000 acres.

In 1897 Keyser built a Parish Hall for community use and also refurbished the Village School. In 1903 he installed a piped water supply to all houses for 2 old pennies a week. The Dixon Almshouses built by a former vicar were also restored at his expense. He wished to preserve the Village from unseemly modernisation and prohibited the installation of street lighting, although this had been requested by some of the respondents. (see question on this topic in the Questionnaire)

Aldermaston has been described as "this dainty village curtseying feudally to the proud gates of the Court". The pair of William the Third wrought iron gates (known as the 'Eagle' Gates), which stand imposingly at the top of the village street, originally belonged to Midgham Manor but early in the nineteenth century were won in a game of cards by the Lord of the Manor of Aldermaston, William Congreve, who erected them at the Court surmounted by a falcon from his family crest. Also at the head of The Street is the "Loosey", a triangular area of a green with the remains of a Roman well.

Village and Estate were virtually synonymous. Ben Arlott, a "worthy" from an old Aldermaston family, in the delightful book "A Village Story" gives an account of the pre-1939 Village, then entirely part of the squire's estate, when most worked at his bidding. This filled the working hours and "obligation to one's betters" frequently filled the time of meagre leisure. In those days the essence of the deferential society was the habitual respect which the upper classes, in particular the landed classes, were accustomed to receive from the community at large. Deference also had an economic basis in the dependence of farmers, servants and



*St. Mary The Virgin Church*



*Manor House Aldermaston Court*



*The Parish Hall*

*The 'Eagle' Gates at Christmas*





*The Roman Well at the Loosey*



*Aldermaston Antiques at The Old Dispensary in The Street*



*The Nativity Play*



*The Candle Auction*



*Aldermaston Pottery Alan Caiger-Smith and Geoffrey Eastop at work*

the labouring poor on the patronage or benevolence of individual landowners.

Aldermaston Church began as a Saxon Minster. In Norman times a stone church was built, now the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, that has been added to over the centuries and much restored in the Victorian era. The XIth century Norman west door remains. There are XIIth century stained glass windows, a XVIth century tryptych, wall paintings and a fine alabaster tomb of Sir George Forster, a Lord of the Manor, and his Lady dated 1533. In this old church each Christmastide since 1957 a XIVth century Nativity Play, based on a translation from the York Mystery Play Cycle, has been performed by local parishioners to great acclaim.

An older tradition is that of the “Candle Auction” which has taken place triennially since 1815 when the Churchwardens were awarded, by an Act of Parliament, nearly 2.5 acres of meadow to be used for the benefit of the Church. The auction is of the 3-year lease of the meadow. A horseshoe nail is pushed horizontally through a candle and the wick lit. The successful bidder is the one who is last to bid before the nail falls to the table. The auction is conducted by the Vicar, escorted by the Churchwardens smoking clay pipes.

Most of the houses in The Street are now Grade II listed buildings. Many were XVIIth and XVIIIth century estate workers’ cottages built of red and blue local brick. One of these is now a famed Pottery founded in 1955 in the derelict former Village “Smithy” by Alan Caiger-Smith who has acquired an international reputation. He has taught many potters from many countries their craft. The nearby old Apothecary is now an Antiques Shop. The larger houses belonged to prosperous persons such as the Doctor and the Vicar. There are also a number of Victorian and more modern buildings. The public house at the northern end of The Street, The Hind’s Head was built in the 17th century. Behind it is the Village Lock-up last used in 1865 when a drunkard was locked up and burned himself to death.

A stone plaque on the Old Village School, now The Cedars School, commemorates the propagation of the first William pear tree by the village schoolmaster in the 1770s.

In 1723 The River Kennet was made navigable between Reading and Newbury and a large commercial wharf was soon established at Aldermaston when the canal became very busy with goods laden barges. Now it is mainly used by leisure boats and the towpath by hikers and cyclists. The Kennet and Avon Canal Information Centre and Café is on the north bank near to the Wharf Lifting Bridge. The Great Western Railway line from Reading to Hungerford was opened in 1847, with a station at Aldermaston.

After the death of the last Lord of the Manor, Charles Keyser, the whole estate was sold to a syndicate led by a firm of auctioneers. The Old Mill had been sold privately to the Arlott family, the current owners, prior to the Estate sale. The Manor House together with 137 acres of the Park including the 11 acre lake were sold pre-auction to Associated Electrical Industries. The remainder of the vast estate was



then put up for auction in 388 lots. The particulars of the sale amounting to 143 foolscap pages, supplemented by a great many photographs, provide a wealth of detail that helps build a comprehensive picture of the topography and rural economy of the Park and Village in 1939. As a consequence the Parish lost half of its inhabitants – a degree of change that must have had enormous social repercussions, for some 60% of the working population had been in the employ of the Estate prior to the sale.

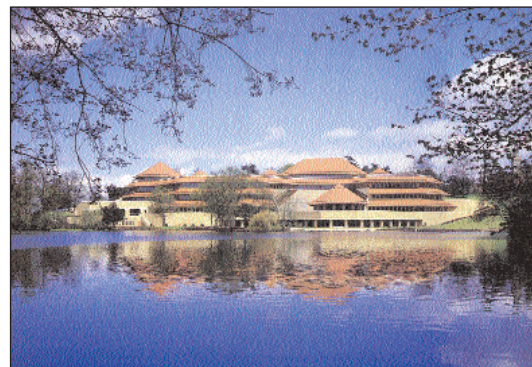
At the Annual Parish Meeting prior to the sale the effect on the allotments land and the Parish Hall was discussed as they were included in the sale. Bert Summers of Frouds Farm purchased the allotments but the Parish Hall was sold. It was not re-purchased by the Parish until after the war for £2,600.

During the Second World War a large part of the estate was requisitioned for the construction of an airfield. This was to become a U.S. Army Air Force Base from which hundreds of gliders were launched to support the Normandy landings. Aldermaston Court was taken over by the Military Services for the duration.

The Court was subsequently re-occupied by Associated Electrical Industries. The first nuclear reactor designed for generating power for industry was built adjacent to the lake and was opened in 1965. However, it was not taken up commercially and was later demolished. The Electron Microscope was also developed there. Later The Court was used as a correspondence college and then purchased by Blue Circle Cement who built a new headquarters by the lake and used the Manor House as a conference centre and hotel. Sold to new owners, the use remains the same at present.

After the war the airfield became a flying school. Then in 1950 it was chosen as the site for The Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. The first nuclear test explosion by the Establishment took place in 1950 off the N.W. coast of Australia. In the 1960s Aldermaston became famous for the Aldermaston Marches organised by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Periodic protests still occur with encampments of protesters outside the various gates. The Atomic Weapons Establishment continues to this day as by far the largest employer in the Parish, with a diversity of skills and functions.

The present generation of parishioners have inherited a rich and special historic environment. They now face the conundrum of how to preserve this in an era of economic and social pressure for housing and industrial development and exploitation of natural resources. Hopefully our Parish Plan will influence the outcome.



*Portland House built as the HQ of Blue Circle Cement*



*CND March to AWRE Aldermaston*

## INITIAL ISSUES

The posted comments of parishioners at the initial Open Meeting in April 2004 revealed the main issues of concern but also the benefits of living in an attractive rural area in the Kennet Valley.

They disliked :

The heavy volume of traffic, particularly of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) through the Wharf and the Village on the A340 trunk road and also on the narrow country lanes. There was a strong demand for a Village Relief Road.

Speeding traffic. There was a call for a review of speed limits in several areas. The heavy volume and speeding inhibit cycling and walking along the A340 between the Village and the Wharf and railway station. They are also a hazard to children crossing to the Village school and recreation ground.

Pollution caused by the traffic that has severely damaged the brickwork of houses and walls in The Street.

The One-Way Lifting Bridge over the canal at the Wharf.

Poor public transport, particularly the lack of a Sunday train service.

Inadequate security and vandalism at the railway station.

Anti-Social behaviour. Fly tipping – illegal dumping.

The threat of more gravel extraction sites. There was strong opposition to further sites. At Public Enquiries and Appeals on Planning Applications (in 1974 for a site in Fisherman's Lane and in 2003 for an extensive site, scheduled to last for 20 years, at Lower Wasing Estate) concerted campaigns won the day. Parishioners remain vigilant !

The effect of the vast Atomic Weapons Establishment splitting the parish and as a potential hazard.

The geographical and hence social separation of the settlements *i.e* between Ravenswing/Falcon Fields, the Village and the Wharf.

Further housing and industrial development.

The lack of amenities for young people.

They liked:

The surrounding countryside with its waterways, meadows, woods and heathland and access provided by footpaths and by-ways.

The friendly community spirit, particularly in the Village.

The regular parish events. The Aldermaston and Wasing Show, the Nativity Play, Carol Concert and Parish Hall Entertainments.

The beauty of the Village. A Conservation Area they wish to see preserved.

The Aldermaston Stores and Post Office.

These issues were all addressed in the questionnaires. The responses, recorded in the Commentaries and Graphical Presentations, quantify the strength of Parish opinion



HGV entering The Street



Pollution damage to brickwork in The Street



Gravel Protest March plus HGVs! – 2003



A view of the surrounding countryside

# COMMENTARY ON THE HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

The detail of the Questionnaire together with a graphical presentation of the responses is on pages 22-28.

## 1. General

Questionnaires were delivered to 364 households, of which 295 were returned, representing an 81% return rate. This very high return rate gives us confidence that the views of the Parish are fairly reflected in this analysis of the results.

Given the diverse nature of the Parish, the questionnaires were structured such that the analysis could be broken down to the following individual areas (the percentages represent the relative number of households within the parish)

- Aldermaston Village (30%)
- Aldermaston Wharf (10%)
- Falcon Fields (10%)
- Ravenswing/Pinelands (30%)
- Raghill and other outlying areas (20%)

The 295 households that responded represent 650 residents, including children. This is an average of 2.20 residents per household, which is lower than the West Berkshire average of 2.56. The higher density at the Wharf is more than compensated by the lower densities at Ravenswing/Pinelands and Falcon Fields, which generally have smaller properties.

The average age in the Parish is just under 50 years. Within the individual areas, this ranges from 30.7 at The Wharf to 53.9 at Ravenswing/Pinelands, reflecting the large number of young families at the former and retired people at the latter.

Throughout the results there is a general feeling of satisfaction and contentment at living in the Parish, with over 76% of households saying they were not looking to move.

## 2. Personal Section

As well as the 295 households returning the Questionnaire, we also received individual responses from 522 members of the Parish aged 11 or over.

One unexpected result was the excess of women compared to men (53.3% to 46.7%). This does not align with Census data, and the distortion is almost entirely due to the Village. It is difficult to explain this anomaly. There is generally a low turnover rate, with over 40% of respondents having lived in the Parish for over 16 years. The most popular reason for moving to Aldermaston was the attractive area.

Employment statistics generally reflect national averages, with 3% unemployed and 25% retired (42% in Ravenswing/Pinelands).

For place of work, there is a fairly even split between the major surrounding towns, though there is a tendency for residents in the south of the Parish (Falcon Fields and Ravenswing/Pinelands) to look towards Basingstoke and



*The Loosey*



*The Kennet and Avon Canal*



*Avenue of poplars between The Wharf and the Village*



*Cows to milking – The Street in quieter times*

Tadley, whereas those in the north (Village and Wharf) look towards Reading, Newbury and London.

When asked how any changes to the Parish should be funded, the most common responses were the least painful options, fundraising and sponsorship. However just over a third of respondents were willing to accept a moderate increase in Council Tax. There was almost unanimous opposition to a high increase in Council Tax.

### 3. Planning and the Environment

#### 3.1 Planning

When asked what types of homes are needed in the Parish, there was a clear perception of a need for affordable housing, supported by almost 50% of respondents, ranging from 70% at Ravenswing/Pinelands to 23% at the Wharf. The next highest response was the 30% who considered there was no need for additional housing, again reflecting the general level of contentment within the Parish. These results should be measured against already planned housing developments off Fisherman's Lane and adjacent to the Parish in Mill Lane Padworth, which may well meet the perceived need. It may be prudent to wait until a proper assessment can be made on the full effect of these developments on the communities and facilities affected, before reaching a definitive conclusion on future housing developments.

In terms of other developments, there was a lot of support (71%) for leisure development such as Countryside Parks. There was also support for small business development and increased educational facilities at AWE. Perhaps unsurprisingly there was substantial opposition to heavy industry (82%) and gravel extraction (78%).

There was some dissatisfaction expressed by respondents about the way in which West Berkshire Council deals with planning applications and especially enforcement procedures. On this latter category, only 22% felt they were dealt with efficiently or adequately, while 38% felt they were dealt with inadequately. In Raghill area, which has suffered from a number of planning breaches, this latter figure increased to 64%.

#### 3.2 Environment

On environmental issues, there was an overwhelming endorsement of the importance to respondents of the countryside in the Parish; 87% felt it very important and a further 12% rated it important. The eleven special features identified in the Questionnaire as being worthy of protection in the Parish were also much valued, recording positive responses overall of between 70% and 89%, with the River Kennet, Kennet and Avon Canal, the water meadows, the view over the valley from Aldermaston Church and The Street in Aldermaston Village being considered the most important.

It was encouraging to see that nearly 50% of respondents felt it was important to carry out a project to record these special features and a further 10% (51 people) would like to be involved in such a project.

Traffic noise was clearly the principal type of disturbance throughout the Parish, identified by 74% of respondents overall, with this figure increasing to nearly 95% in Aldermaston Wharf and Aldermaston Village, both areas adversely affected by the A340.

Some 20% of respondents overall were affected by music festivals, motor sport activities, noise pollution (other than traffic noise and music festivals) and air pollution, with around 13% affected by low flying aircraft (including military aircraft) and light pollution, whilst 10% suffered none of these disturbances.

### 3.3 Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE)

AWE was perceived to pose a health and security risk; by its presence high 28%, low 45% and no risk 15%; by materials movements in and out high 34%, low 40% and no risk 11%. The risk, especially relating to material movements, was perceived to be higher by residents of Aldermaston Wharf and Aldermaston Village, as they are adjacent to the A340 transport route.

## 4. Highways and Public Transport

### 4.1 Traffic

The level of traffic, and in particular the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), is by far the biggest issue in this section of the consultation exercise, being identified by 85% of respondents. Aldermaston is a picturesque Parish, spoiled by the busy A340 passing through the heart of it. This road was upgraded to a trunk road approximately 20 years ago without any significant improvement in infrastructure and now seems to carry far more vehicles than was ever intended. The issue is aggravated by the large number of gravel lorries and the fact that many houses in the Village open straight on to the road. A review of WBC traffic survey statistics show that, during a working day, HGVs represent a staggering 19% of vehicles (by comparison the A4 has 10% and the A339 has 8%). This issue was also identified by the youth of the Parish as one of their major dislikes.

In addition to the overall level of traffic, its speed is also an issue in several parts of the Parish. An analysis of WBC traffic statistics show that this is a particular problem at the Wharf, where 15% of motorists exceed 45mph in the 30mph limit. A “Smiley” speed indicator and larger Village entry signs were the two most popular speed control measures generating 53% and 35% support respectively. There is a call for an extension of speed limits in the south of the Parish, in particular around the vicinity of the Paices Hill Travellers’ Site.

As for traffic “danger spots” the geographic differences within the Parish become very apparent, with each part of the Parish identifying a road in their area. Paices Hill, however, gained more general support (57%), as did The Street (46%) and Wasing Lane by the school (38%). The consultation was conducted during the remedial work on Paices Hill, so it is difficult to assess whether the new road signs are having any affect.



*Heavy traffic in The Street*

## 4.2 Relief Road

Both the level of traffic and the number of HGVs stimulate the demand for a relief road. A remarkable 68% responded positively to the need for a relief road. This figure is even more surprising given that relief is only provided to the Village (30% of the population) and other parts of the parish would be adversely affected. Of the 16% of respondents who were against the relief road, several felt the problem could be overcome by simply banning HGVs, but WBC officers have advised us that this is unlikely. The most acceptable “trade-off” to get the relief road is light industrial development on Paices Hill. Some housing development on Wasing Lane was also supported, provided the number did not exceed 25 houses. Residents at the Wharf would like to see the relief road extended to bypass them also, though this is likely to have significant impact on cost and timescales. There is a strong mandate for the Parish Council policy of resisting any further significant planning developments until a relief road has been agreed – over two thirds of respondents expressing support.

## 4.3 Public Transport

The responses to the questions on public transport were inconsistent. The current frequency of service is very poor, compounded by the fact that we are located right on the county boundary. Even if it was improved to a suitable level, most people said they would rarely use it (typically only once every 2 months). Where they would, Reading was the most popular destination, followed by Basingstoke and Newbury (again there were marked regional differences). On the other hand there were suggestions for specific improvements to the bus and train service, especially for a Sunday service on the trains. There were also security concerns with the station car park. Both the Youth Questionnaire, and the consultation with the Paices Hill Travellers’ Site, identified the need for better public transport, the former to Reading and the latter to Basingstoke.

## 4.4 Other Related Issues

There was very strong support for a new roadside footpath between the Village and the station, this route scoring more than double any other. The scores for the other routes were fairly even and reflected local issues. There seems to be a good case for better pedestrian access to Tadley from Ravenswing and from the Paices Hill Travellers’ Site.

60% of respondents thought there was a need for a dedicated car park within the Village, with only 17% against. This result was consistent throughout the Parish. Several people suggested where it might be located (two possibilities are by the allotments or behind the Parish Hall). A dedicated car park might encourage tourists to the Village, though security considerations means it is unlikely to be used for overnight parking.

Recognising that the existing lifting bridge at the Wharf is becoming very expensive to maintain, we sought views on whether/how it should be replaced. The most popular response (26%) was a new fixed bridge, the preferred option



Aldermaston Station



The Lifting Bridge over the canal complete with queuing traffic

of West Berks Council. It is worth noting that several residents at the Wharf were against any replacement and would like an upgrade to Frouds Lane instead, thereby effectively giving them a bypass. This view is not shared by the residents of Frouds Lane!

## 5. Parish Amenities

The Village Shop/Post Office, the Post Box, and Footpaths/Bridleways were identified as the most important amenities, all achieving a rating of 75% for important or very important. Sadly since the questionnaire was issued the Post Office section of the Village Shop has been closed as it had become commercially non-viable, reflecting a nationwide problem for rural Post Offices. Slightly behind these came the Parish Hall and the Recreation Ground, both scoring just under 75%. The mobile library was deemed the least important (by 27%), though it was particularly valued by the residents of Ravenswing/Pinelands.

Apart from the Village Shop, Tadley is the most popular place to shop, with over 75% of respondents visiting at least weekly. Newbury, Reading and Basingstoke all scored equally around 20%, with Thatcham the least popular at 15%.

The Church drew some contrasting comments, almost 70% saw it as an important historic building and 50% considered it as a focal point for the community. However, only 17% believed it was important for Sunday worship and almost 20% considered it had no importance at all.

Local schools were considered important to the community with 86% rating them either important or very important. There was a substantial view that the school halls and/or Parish Hall should be used more by the Parish, particularly for sport, recreation and educational classes.

Respondents were generally satisfied with the services they received, with telephone, electricity and waste collection scoring well (typically 85% rating them reasonable or better). People were critical of highways and pavement maintenance, with almost 50% classing them as poor. Mobile phone reception was rated as disappointing by 33%. Almost 50% of respondents do not use gas, but those who did were reasonably satisfied.

Predictably there were strong views, both for and against, on whether there should be street lighting in the Street, with 45% in favour and 30% against. However, within the Village itself, these figures change to 33% in favour and 58% against (of which 33% are strongly against).

To improve footpaths, 63% thought there should be better signage, and 52% thought there should be maps. The Parish Council has recently produced footpath maps, but it would seem these need better promotion. An encouraging 21% felt the footpaths did not need improvement.

The Parish Magazine and the Parish Council Newsletter were the two main sources of information about the Parish, both being identified by around 50% of respondents. By contrast, the Parish Council Notice Boards were only viewed by 17%.



*The Village Shop*



*The Village School*



*The Allotments*

In terms of actual Parish events, the Aldermaston & Wasing Show was the most popular, being supported by 53%, with local fetes a close second. More disappointingly 31% said they did not support any local events. Residents of the Village and the Wharf were most likely to attend such events, whereas residents of Ravenswing/Pinelands and Falcon Fields were less likely. In some instances these differences were very large, confirming that some areas do not feel part of the Parish.

## 6. Health and Community Services

Most people were satisfied with the current level of provision of these services.

The doctor service was used by 75% of respondents and scored well, 70% assessing it reasonable or good. There was very little use of the other health services listed in Question 45 with typically 85% of respondents reporting that they had not used them.

50% of people are registered privately with a dentist, with only 30% using NHS facilities. Worryingly 12.5% would like to register with an NHS dentist but could not find one available.

There was very little demand for community services such as Home Care and Meals on Wheels, with typically 98% saying such services are not needed.

When addressing what community facilities are needed in the parish, the most popular response was for a Good Neighbour Scheme, which was supported by 40% of respondents spread evenly through the Parish. There was also a perceived need for Sheltered Housing (29%), a Pre-School Group (27%) and Baby Clinic (19%), the latter two particularly requested by residents at the Wharf. 20% felt there was no need for any such facilities. Provision of a local Nursing Home was felt to be needed by 16%.

Overall it was felt that there was a good community spirit within the Parish, though this was balanced by a few people reporting that they felt cut off from the Village and were not involved in Parish events.

## 7. Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

The results show that Aldermaston is basically a safe place to live, with only one mugging event reported.

The most common complaint was speeding (75%) and this response is uniform throughout the Parish. The next highest area of concern was fly tipping (47%), again generally spread across the Parish. Other issues identified were more regional, the Wharf suffers from vandalism and dog fouling, the Village has concerns over indiscriminate parking, and the more rural parts of the community identify with theft and noise disturbance. Encouragingly, only 1% of respondents mentioned drug/solvent abuse as an issue.

45% considered the police coverage to be poor, compared to 32% who considered it reasonable or good. The Wharf and Raghill were the areas most critical of the police coverage.

A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is being established within



*Fly-tipping in a copse*



the Village, although 30% were unaware of the fact. A scheme is operational at Ravenswing/Pinelands, but only 25% of respondents are members, compared to 45% who have chosen to opt out. There is a strong demand for schemes to be established at Falcon Fields (91%) and to a lesser extent at the Wharf (75%) and Raghill (69%).

When looking to see what measures are needed to improve people's perspective on crime and anti-social behaviour, the most common response was "more activities for younger people" (57%) and a "greater police presence" (50%), the latter particularly at the Wharf. Improved street lighting was requested by 57% of Ravenswing residents and those at the Travellers' site at Stocks Farm, though this was not supported for elsewhere in the Parish. 12% felt no further measures were needed.

65% of respondents felt that they did not need to take any specific precautions for their safety within the Parish, again reflecting that Aldermaston is basically a safe place to live. Falcon Field residents were the most insecure, but even here 53% took no special precautions.

From the general comments, there were two main areas within the Parish that caused concern. There is a strong feeling of discomfort with the Travellers' site on Paices Hill and the lack of security and lighting at the railway station worried respondents.

## Youth Questionnaire

All aged eleven years or over should complete the personal section of the main questionnaire. However, those aged 11 to 17 years are invited to also complete this supplementary questionnaire which seeks information specifically relevant to that age group. It provides an opportunity to express what YOU would like to see happen in the parish for YOU.

- 1) Male  Female
- 2) How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ years old
- 3) Where do you attend school? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What hobbies do you have? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What do you do in your spare time at home? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) What do you do in your spare time outside? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Do you go into town?
- Reading  Basingstoke  Newbury  Tadley  Other
- 8) What do you go into town for?
- Shopping  Sport  Meeting friends  Entertainment  Food  Other
- 9) How do you travel to town?
- Cycle  Car  Bus  Train  Other
- 10) If you do not have Public transport would you use it if were there?
- Yes  No
- 11) What do you like about living in this parish? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12) What don't you like about living in this parish? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 13) What would YOU like to see happen in this parish for YOU? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## COMMENTARY ON THE YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE

There were 35 completed questionnaires divided equally between girls and boys aged from 11 to 16 years. 18 of these children attend Willink School and the rest other schools in the area, with one child educated at home.

Most of them go into local towns to shop and meet friends or for entertainment. Virtually all go to Reading regularly, otherwise to Basingstoke, Newbury, Tadley and Thatcham. Most of them are dependent on their parents taking them by car. Otherwise they use buses and trains although four said they cycle. One child was old enough to have a moped. There were complaints about the lack of and difficulty of using public transport, especially the accessibility of the railway station. Better public transport links are needed especially to Reading to allow this age group independence from their parents. A footpath/cycle track is needed urgently along the A340 to enable children to visit safely their friends at the Wharf and access the railway station. Many dislike the amount of traffic through the Village, with large lorries being of particular concern.

When asked about their hobbies, the children said they mainly read, watch television or play on playstations. Outdoors they play football, skate or skateboard, swim or play rugby. Others mentioned cycling, playing guitar, art, basketball, netball, horse riding, dancing and trampolining. However, many said there is not enough to do within the Parish itself and there was strong demand for new activities to be started in the Parish Hall. Suggestions were for a Youth Club or perhaps monthly discos. Teenagers said they would like facilities on the recreation ground suitable for their age group. Over a third requested a small skate ramp to be built on the recreation ground to provide somewhere to play in the evenings after school and at weekends. The Recreation Ground could be improved for ball games if further levelled and better maintained.

Many of the children said they enjoyed the quiet of the countryside and country life. Aldermaston was a friendly place to live and the quality of life was high. However, many also said it was boring with not enough to do.

We note that a key finding of the 2002 West Berkshire Rural Needs Study was that "Facilities are seen to be very poor for teenagers". Also The Annual Report of the West Berkshire Children & Young Peoples Partnership 2004 suggests that, according to indices of multiple deprivation, Aldermaston is one of the communities in West Berkshire with a relatively high level of deprivation, despite the area as a whole being largely affluent.

The Recreation Ground



# CONSULTATION AT THE TRAVELLERS' SITES AT OLD STOCKS FARM

Old Stocks Farm is situated on the A340 at the top of Paices Hill. Some 20 years ago it was allocated for use of the Travellers' Community by the then Newbury District Council. The site accommodates two communities of Travellers, each residing in separate well defined areas. The Transit Community being those that stay for less than three months. The Settled Community live on site for extended periods, over ten years in many cases. For the purpose of obtaining information for the Parish Plan each community was treated separately.

We were advised by the Community Council for Berkshire's Senior Community Development Worker for the site, who facilitated the consultation, that the standard Questionnaire was inappropriate and that it would be unlikely that any Travellers would wish to complete it. Instead, two lists of questions appropriate to each community were discussed with their representatives. They presented these to the residents and a draft report from the results was then agreed with them.

The standard Youth Questionnaire was discussed with the young residents of the sites.

The following issues of concern to the Communities were identified for consideration in the Parish Plan .

Traffic through the site. The site access is also used by lorry traffic to the adjacent Waste Transfer Business. The lorries often travel at excessive speed creating noise, dust and a hazard to young children.

Vermin. Rats are a continuing health problem.

Speeding Traffic on Paices Hill, which is used by residents to reach facilities in Tadley, is a hazard, particularly for children. They asked for a reduction of the current speed limit of 50 mph to 30 mph and the provision of a footpath to the Calleva Roundabout.

Public Transport is used by many of the residents and a bus stop to serve the site is requested.

Street Lighting throughout the site is requested.

The lack of recreational facilities for young people was commented on by the teenagers.

# COMMENTARY ON THE BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRE

The detailed Questionnaire together with a graphical presentation of the responses is on pages 29–39.

## General

Questionnaires were delivered to 117 businesses, of which 76 were returned, representing a very respectable 69% return rate. The 76 businesses that responded represented over 4,800 employees compared to 650 residents represented in the residents survey (Household and Personal Questionnaire).

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) is by far the largest employer with approx. 4,000 employees. The next largest had 60 employees. Just over half the businesses had 3 to 10 employees 15% of businesses had only 1 or 2 employees.

The financial performances of the businesses generally reflect their size, with 30% reporting an annual turnover of over £1 million. At the other extreme, 9% reported an annual turnover of under £50,000. Some 19% were either unable or unwilling to provide this financial information. Well over half were Limited Companies, most of the remainder being either Sole Traders or Partnerships.

38% of businesses are in the service industry, 25% in manufacturing and 17% in distribution. Interestingly for a rural community, less than 3% are involved in agriculture.

The main reasons for locating in Aldermaston were access to roads, proximity to customers/homes and the availability of suitable premises. Some 20% of the businesses are looking to move, mostly to expand or find a more affordable area. Their main accommodation demands are for medium offices (500–2500 square feet) and medium/large industrial premises (1000–5000+ square feet).

Just over half the businesses are considering the recruitment of new employees, the biggest demand being for specialist skilled labour (37%) and semi-skilled labour (20%)

Many of the questions were similar to those in the residential survey. The business answers to these questions closely followed the residential answers, though the business opinions were generally not as strong.

## Planning and the Environment

Unsurprisingly, the businesses were stronger than the residents in the demand for industrial and office development, though both groups were opposed to heavy industrial development and gravel extraction.

## Relief Road

The business demand for a Relief Road is slightly less than the residential demand, but with over a 2:1 ratio in favour is still a strong mandate. Almost 70% agree that light industrial development on Paices Hill would be an acceptable trade-off.



Calleva Park

Only 16% oppose the Parish Council policy of no further housing and/or industrial development until a Relief Road has been agreed.

## Traffic and Public Transport

As with the residential survey businesses considered Lorry/HGVs the principal cause of the traffic problems (73%), with the overall level of traffic coming a close second. 7% considered there were no traffic problems.

Paices Hill was again considered the worst danger-spot, though The Street and Wasing Lane scored lower than on the residential survey. Over half the businesses identified larger Village entry signs and “Smiley” digital speed indicators as the preferred speed control measures.

As in the residential survey, the most supported new footpath was that between the Village and the Station. There was also support for one between the Village and Calleva Park, this is no doubt due to the large number of businesses established at the Park.

Similar to the residential survey, there was very little support for public transport. Even if an adequate service were available it would only be used on average twice per month. However, the free text question elicited several calls for a more regular bus service.

## Amenities

The level of importance of local amenities scored very close to the residential results, with slightly less interest in footpaths and slightly more for local services and, interestingly, pubs!

Businesses had a lower respect for schools, with only 55% considering them important to the community, compared to 86% in the residential survey.

Unsurprisingly, the Parish Magazine and Parish Council Newsletter were read less by businesses than by residents. Several businesses commented that they did not receive the Newsletter. Currently 6% access the Parish Council website. Maybe we should make it clearer that the Newsletter is also published there?

Services were generally considered reasonable, with telephone electricity and gas, where available, scoring well. As in the residential survey, highway maintenance scored worst, though even this was only slightly negative.

## Crime and Anti-social behaviour

30% of businesses reported no evidence of crime or anti-social behaviour, which is encouraging. Burglary and fly tipping were the most common instances, both scoring around 30%. Speeding vehicles were less of an issue for businesses than for residents.

Over 60% of businesses have installed Intruder Alarms, which

was by far the most common security provision. Over 25% have not installed any security measures, presumably most of these were the smaller businesses operating from home.

### And Finally

Disappointingly, almost 70% of respondents were unwilling to provide business sponsorship for local events. Where sponsorship was offered, Aldermaston & Wasing Show was the most popular event, with local fetes second. In the majority of instances where sponsorship was offered, the businesses did not identify themselves!



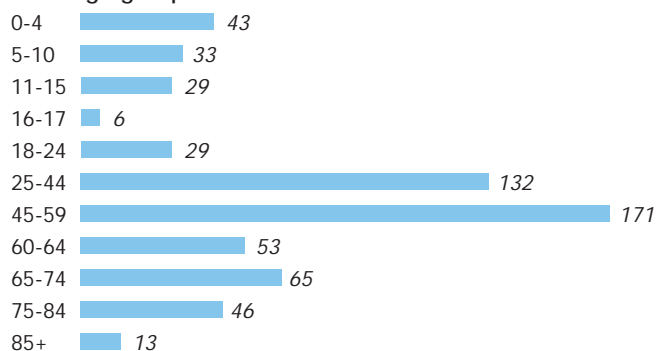
# ALDERMASTON PARISH PLAN – QUESTIONNAIRE

## INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNT

### HOUSEHOLD SECTION

1. How many people including children normally live in your household? 650

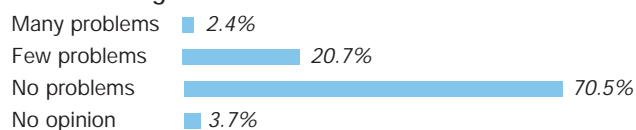
2. Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group:



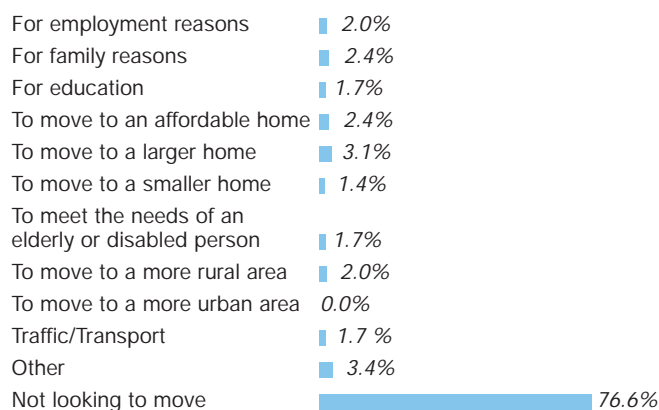
3. Where does your household live?



4. Do you have flooding problems with surface water or storm drainage?



5. If any of your household is looking to move, why do they want/need to move?



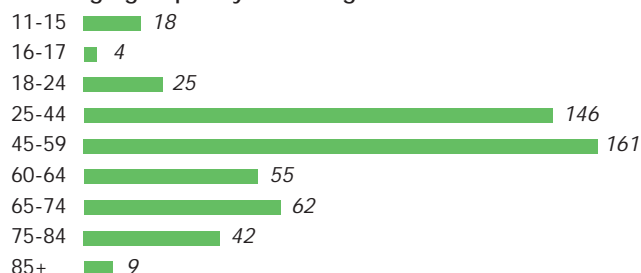
### PERSONAL SECTION

#### SECTION 1 – CORE QUESTIONS

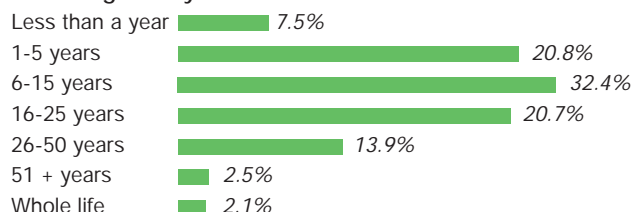
6. Gender?



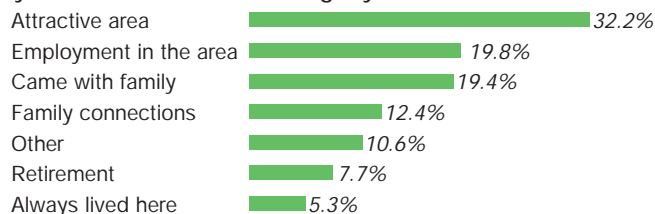
7. What age group do you belong to?



8. How long have you lived in the Parish of Aldermaston?

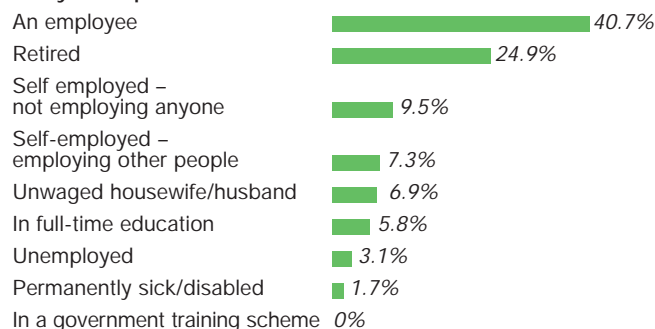


9. If you moved here, what brought you here?

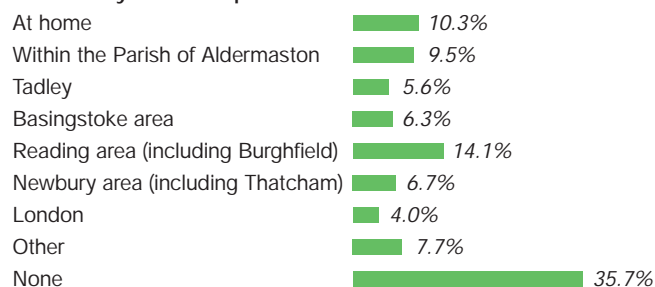


10. Free text answer

11. Are you at present?

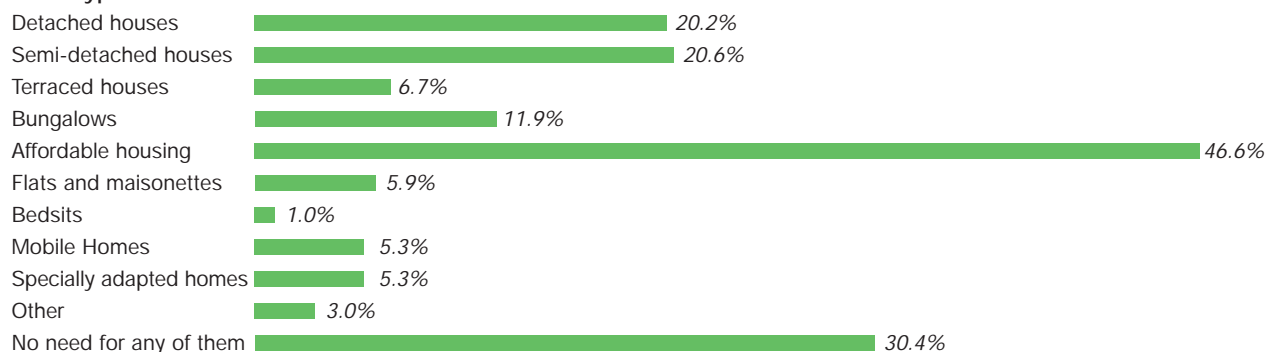


12. Where is your main place of work?

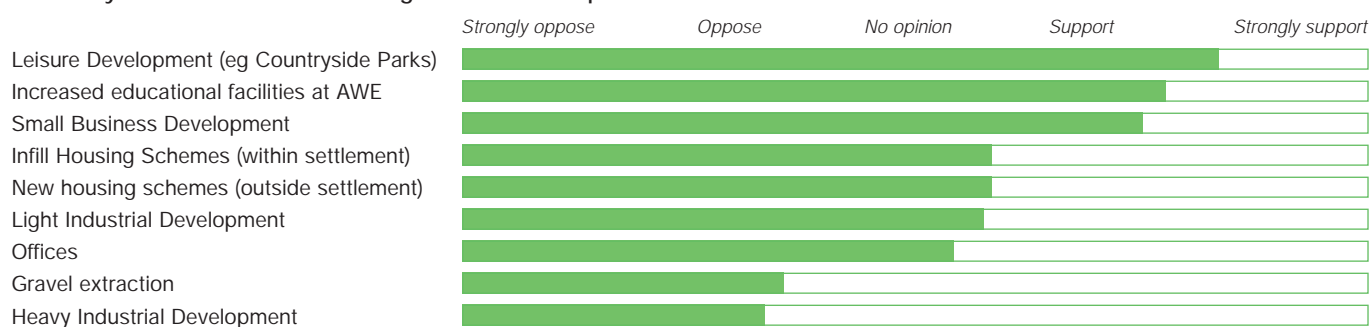


## SECTION 2 – PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

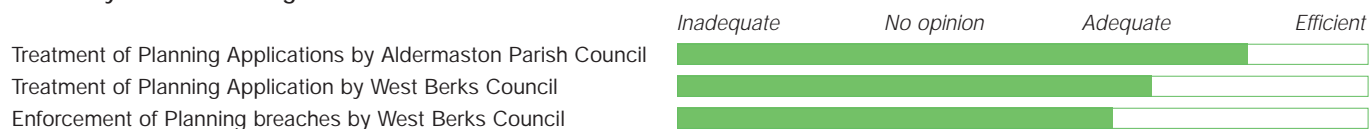
### 13. What type/s of home/s is/are needed in the Parish of Aldermaston?



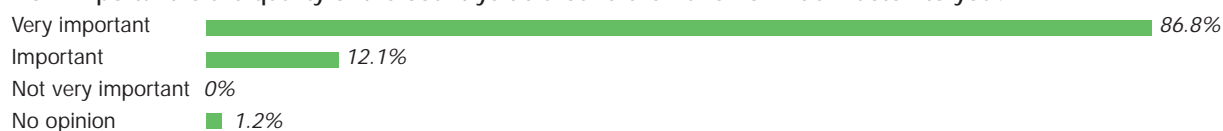
### 14. How do you feel about the following sorts of development in the Parish of Aldermaston?



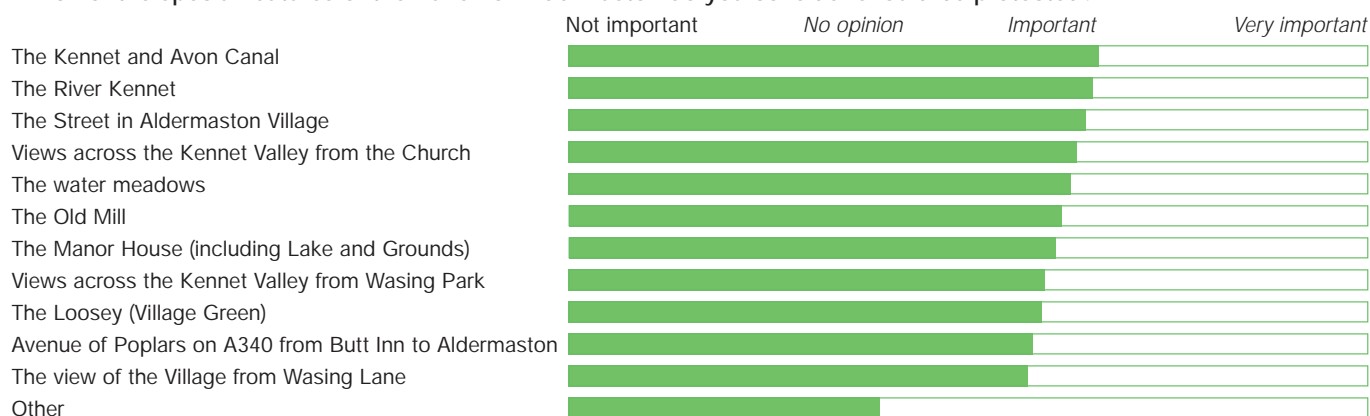
### 15. How do you feel Planning Matters are dealt with?



### 16. How important is the quality of the countryside around the Parish of Aldermaston to you?

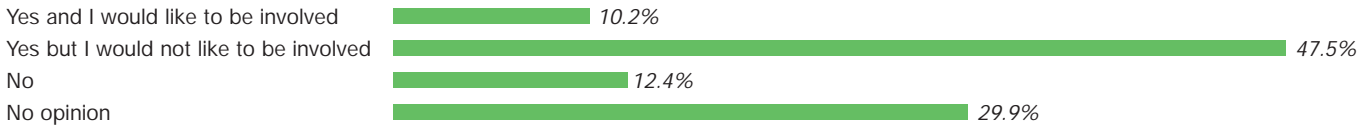


### 17. Which of the special features of the Parish of Aldermaston do you consider should be protected?

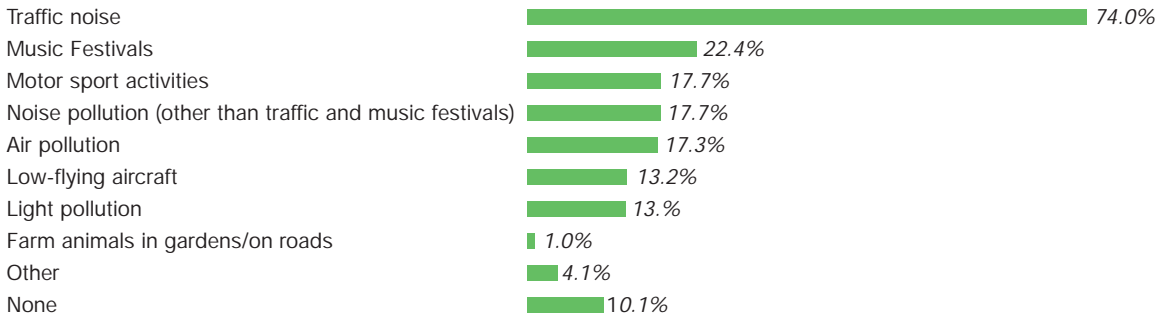




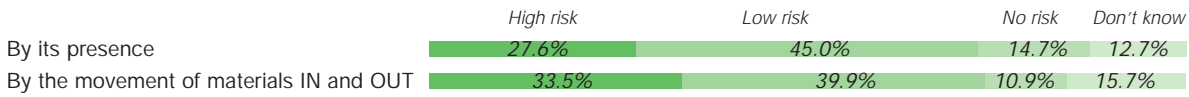
**18. Do you think there is a need to carry out a project to record the special features of the Parish of Aldermaston?**



**19. Does the Parish of Aldermaston suffer from any of the following types of disturbance?**

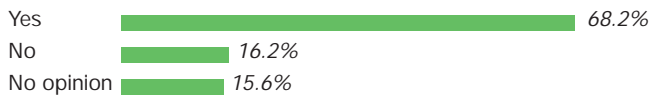


**20. Do you believe AWE poses a health/security risk?**

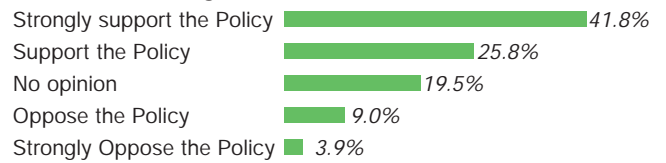


**SECTION 3 – VILLAGE RELIEF ROAD**

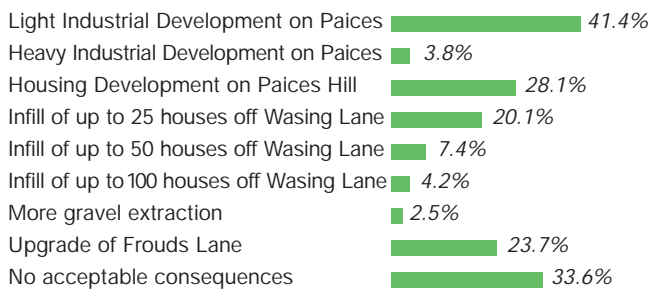
**21. Do you think that Aldermaston needs a Relief Road that would divert the A340 around the Village?**



**23. What is your opinion of the Parish Council Policy of objecting to consideration of any further housing and/or industrial development in the Parish until a Village Relief Road has been agreed?**

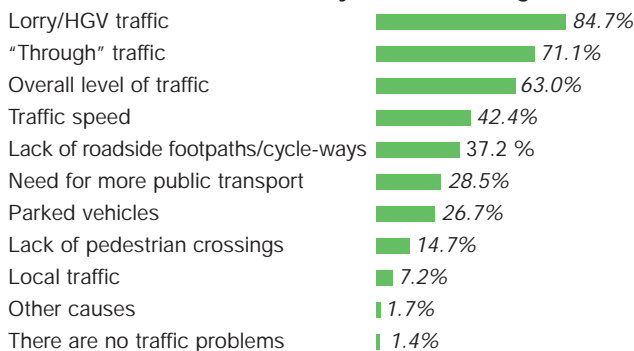


**22. If there is to be a Village Relief Road, which of the following consequences would you find acceptable as a trade-off?**

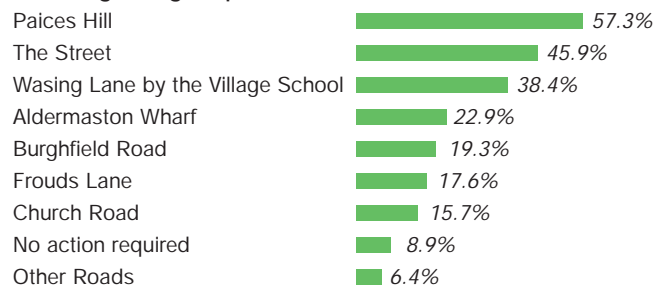


**SECTION 4 – TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

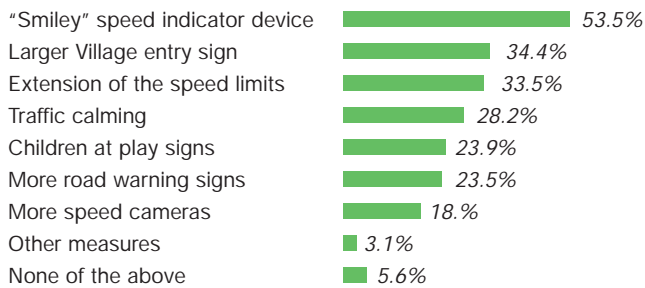
**24. Do you think that the traffic problems in the Parish of Aldermaston are related to any of the following?**



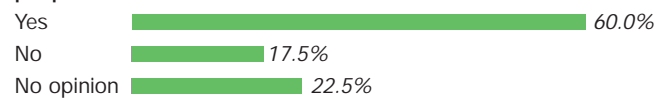
**25. Would you support action to improve road safety in the following 'danger-spots'?**



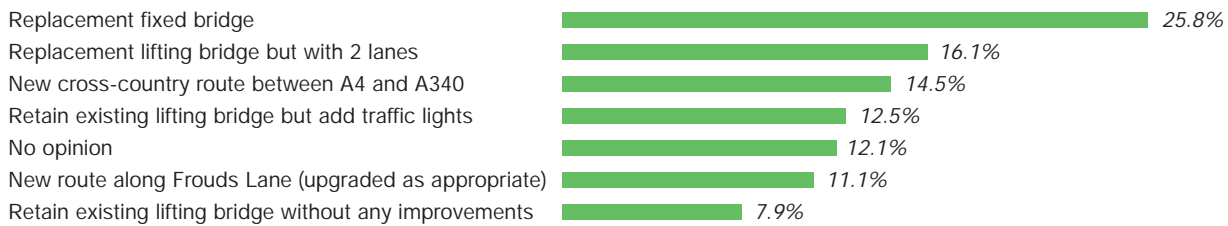
26. Would you support the following speed control measures in the Parish of Aldermaston?



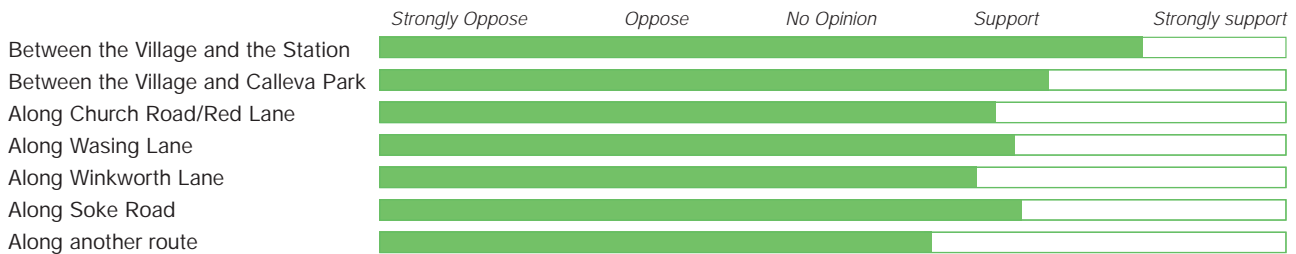
27. Is there a need for a dedicated car parking area in the Village to serve facilities such as the village school, the shops, the recreation field, the Parish Hall and residential properties?



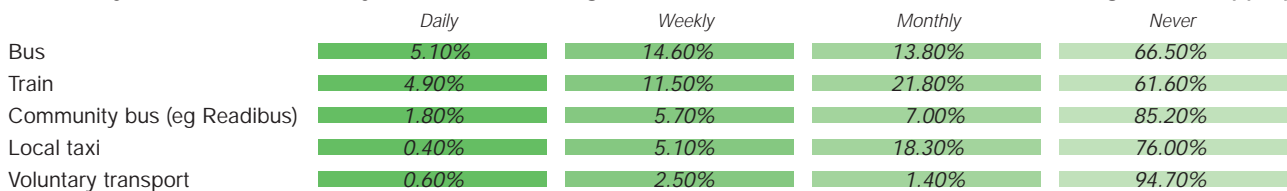
28. The Lifting Bridge at the Wharf is considered a bottle-neck and incurs high maintenance costs. What alternative should be considered?



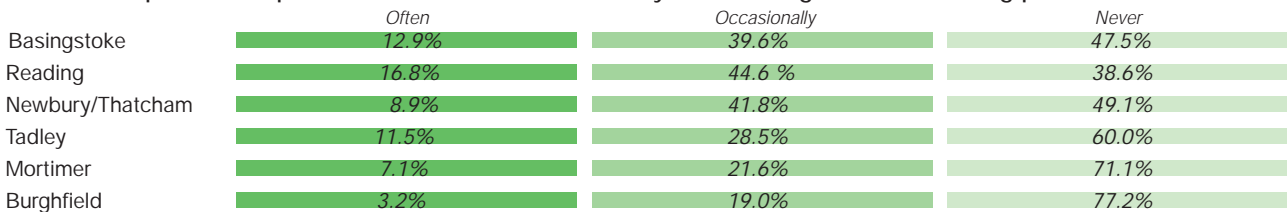
29. Would you support the provision of a roadside footpath/cycleway at the following locations?



30. How many times a week would you use the following services if the service was sufficient and integrated as appropriate?



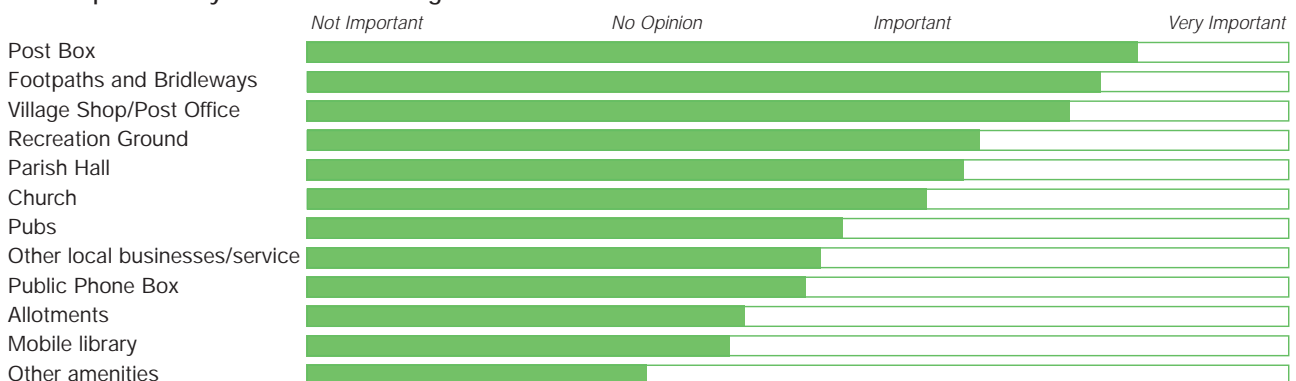
31. If a suitable public transport service was available, would you use it to get to the following places?



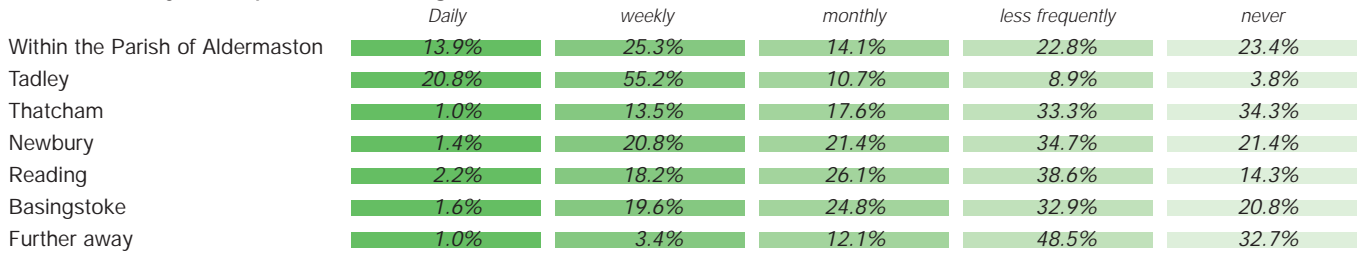
32. Free text answer

**SECTION 5 – PARISH AMENITIES**

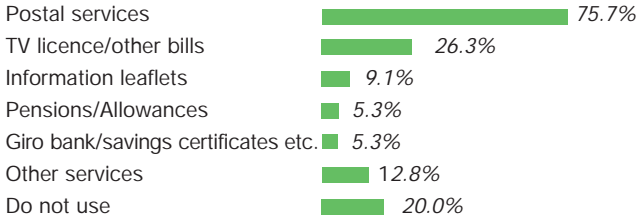
33. How important to you are the following Parish amenities?



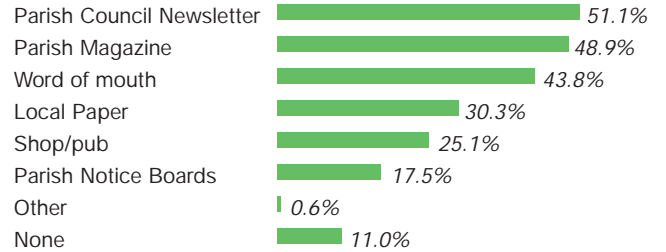
34. How often do you shop at the following locations?



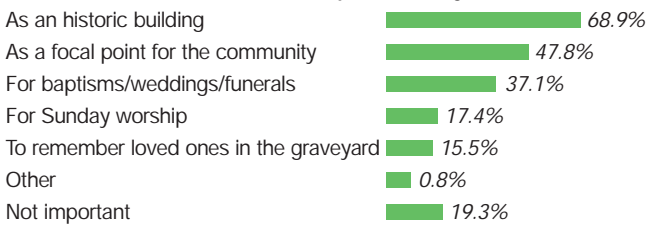
35. If you use the local Post Office, please say what for?



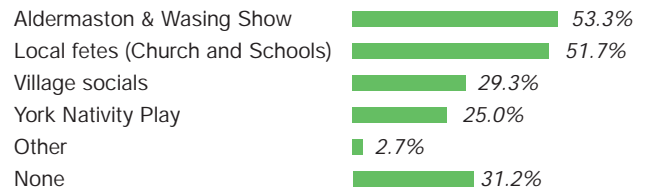
41. How do you find what facilities are available or what events are taking place in the Parish of Aldermaston?



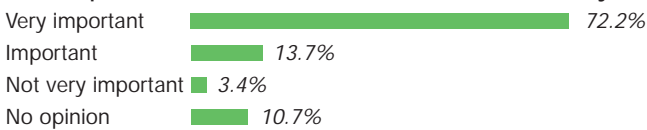
36. Is the Aldermaston Church important to you?



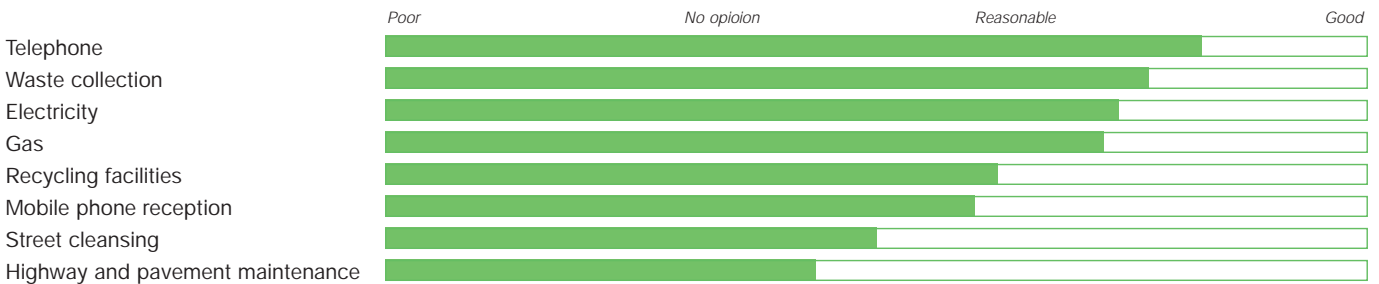
42. Do you support the following local events?



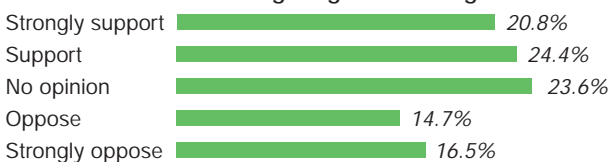
37. How important are the local schools to the community?



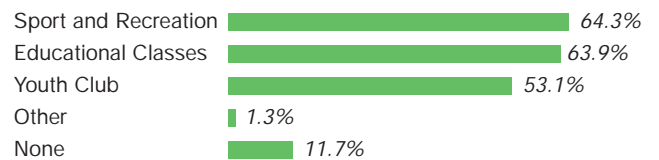
38. What is your opinion of the following services?



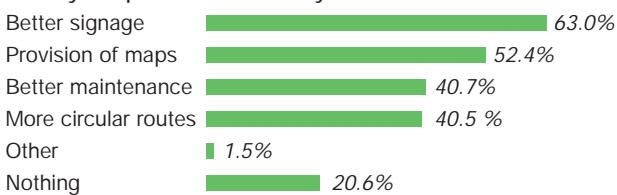
39. Should there be street lighting in the Village Street?



43. What would you like to see the Parish Hall or local Schools used for?



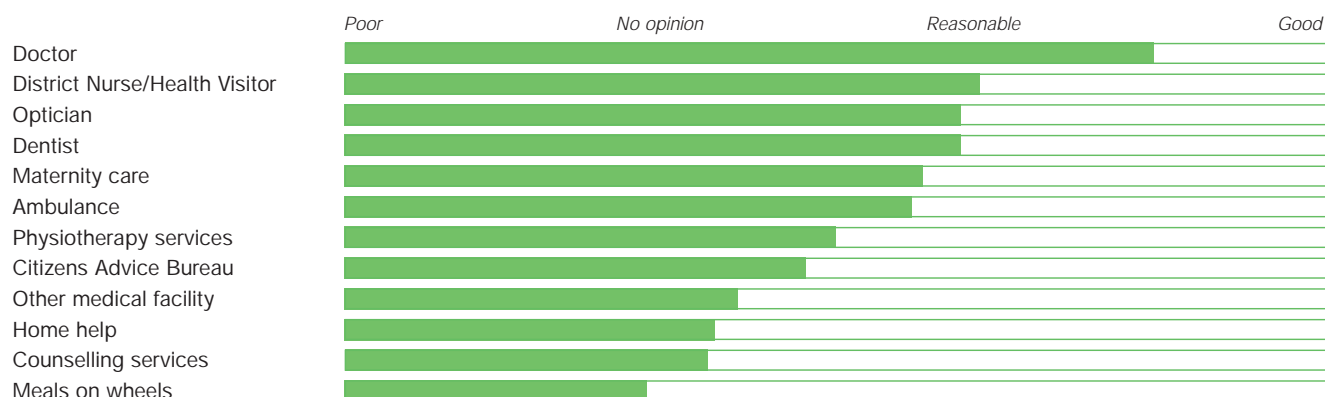
40. What should be done to encourage greater use of the cross-country footpaths and bridleways?



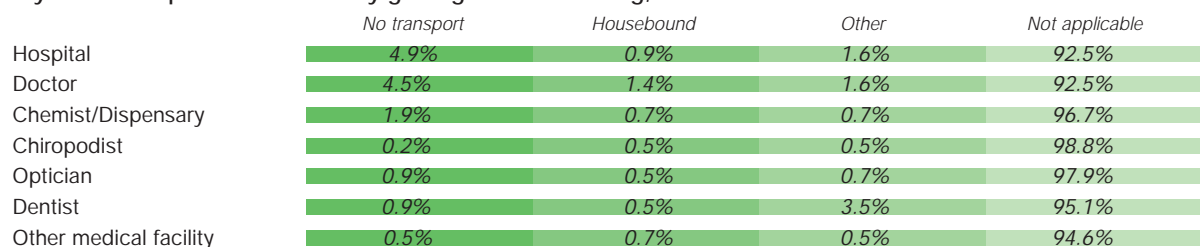
44. Free text answer

## SECTION 6 – HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

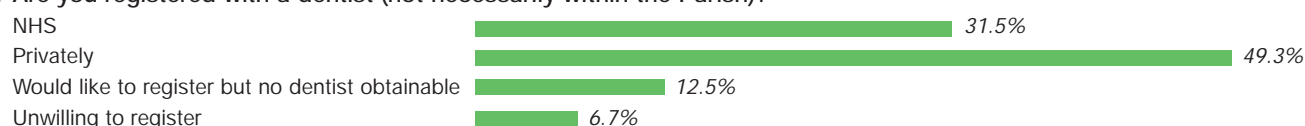
45. If you have used any of the following services which cover the Parish of Aldermaston during the last year, how do you rate the service?



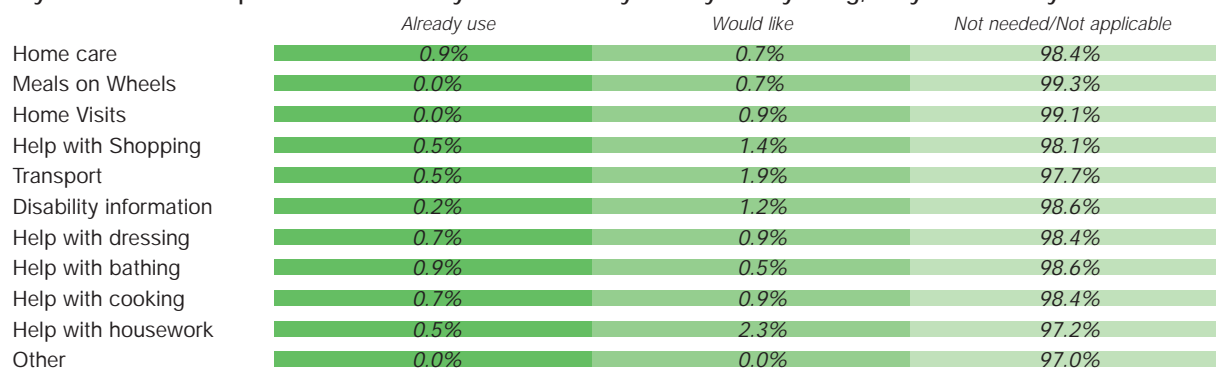
46. If you have experienced difficulty getting to the following, what is the reason?



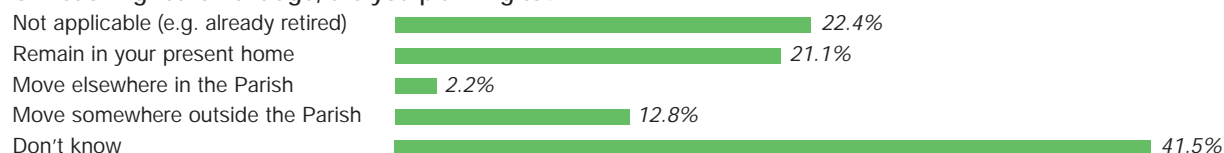
47. Are you registered with a dentist (not necessarily within the Parish)?



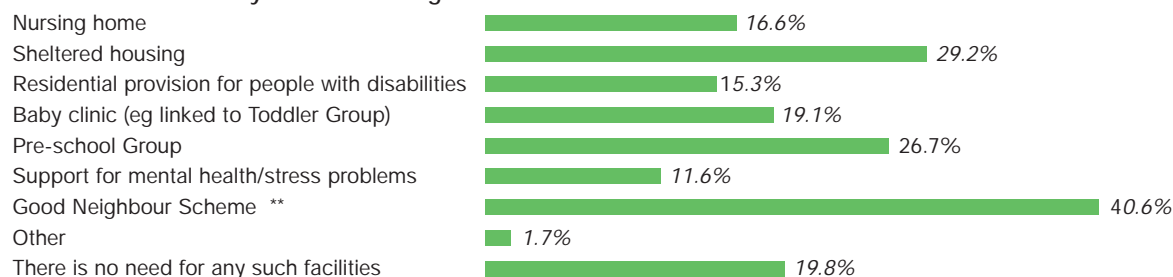
48. If you have a health problem or disability that restricts your day to day living, do you need any of the following?



49. On reaching retirement age, are you planning to?



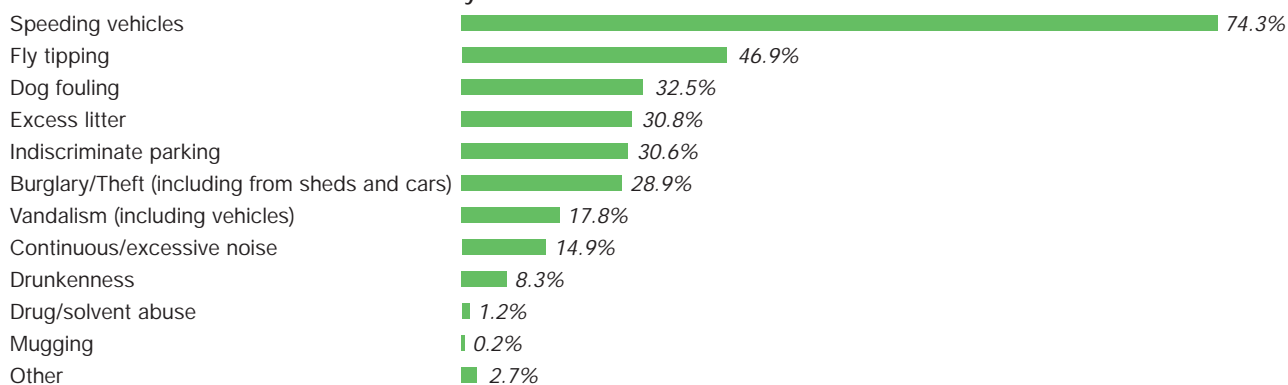
50. Is there a need for any of the following in the Parish of Aldermaston?



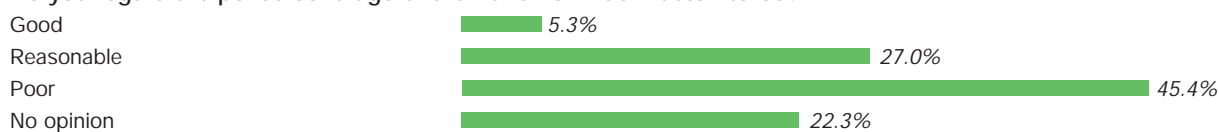
## SECTION 7 – CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

51. Have you witnessed or been subjected to any crime or anti-social behaviour in the Parish of Aldermaston?

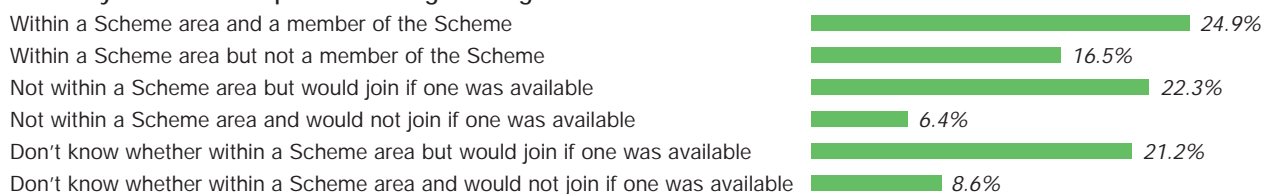
Please indicate those that have affected you.



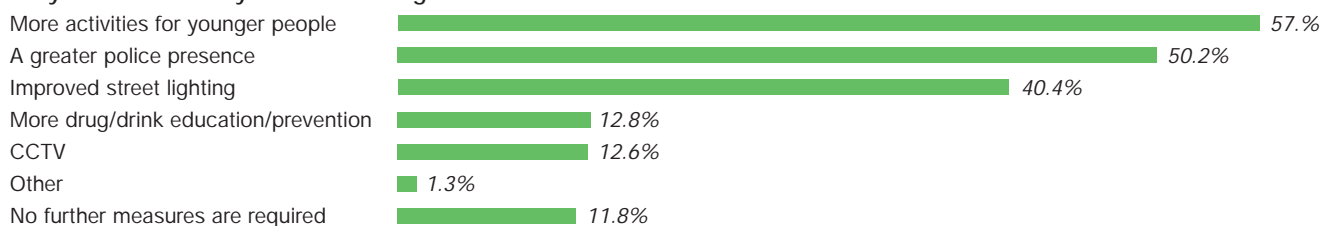
52. Do you regard the police coverage of the Parish of Aldermaston to be?



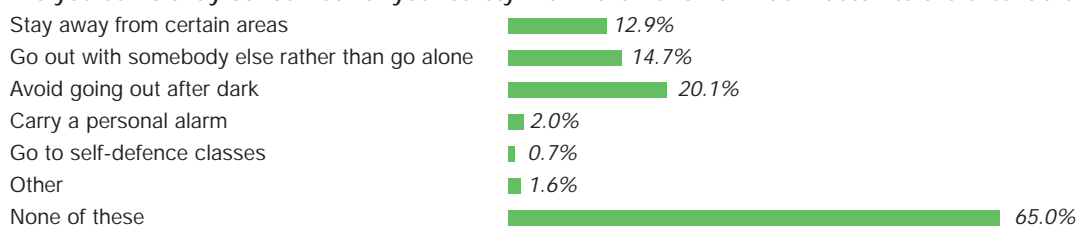
53. What is your situation/opinion with regard Neighbourhood Watch Schemes?



54. Do you think that any of the following measures are needed?

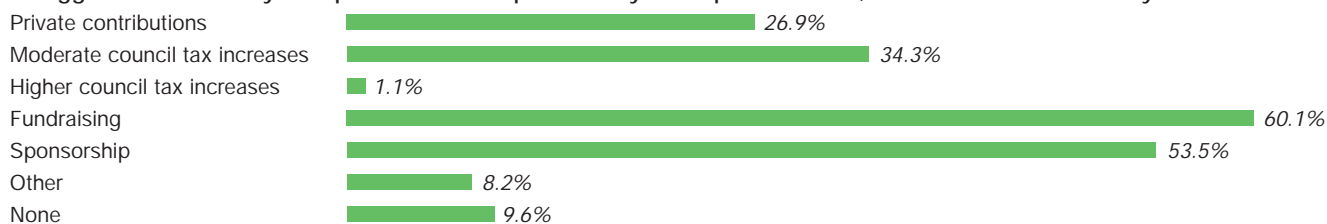


55. Are you sufficiently concerned for your safety within the Parish of Aldermaston to the extent that you?



56. Free text answer

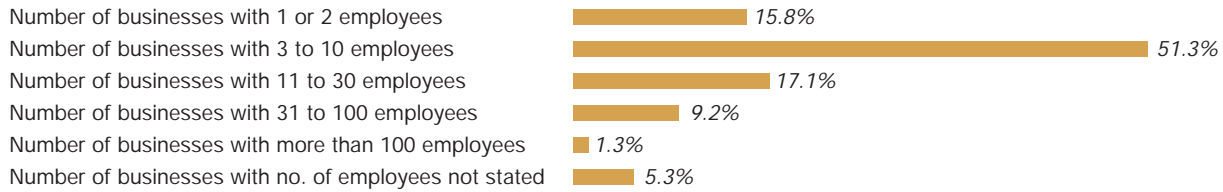
57. If suggestions raised by the questionnaire require money for implementation, where should that money come from?



58. Free text answer

## BUSINESS SECTION

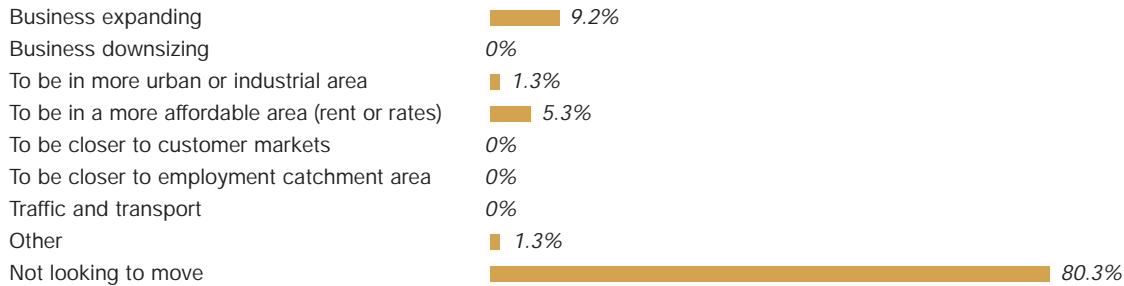
### 1. Number of employees?



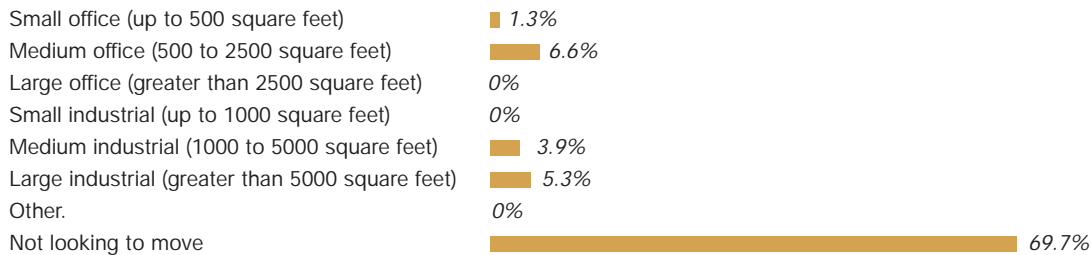
### 2. Not Used

### 3. Not Used

### 4. If you are considering moving, why do you want/need to move?



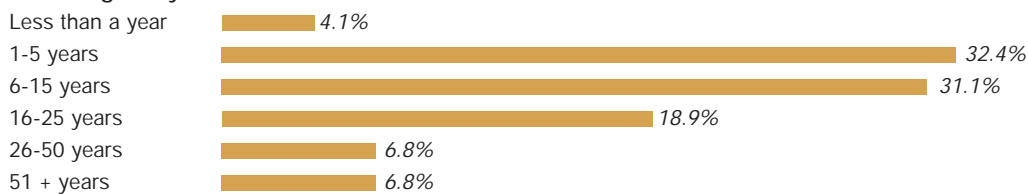
### 5. If you are looking to move, how could you be accommodated within the Parish?



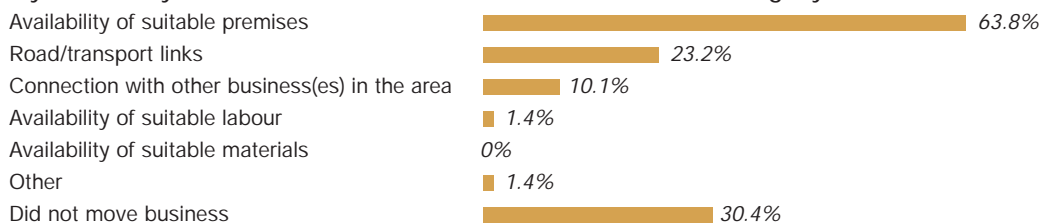
### 6. Not Used

### 7. Not Used

### 8. How long has your business been in the Parish of Aldermaston?



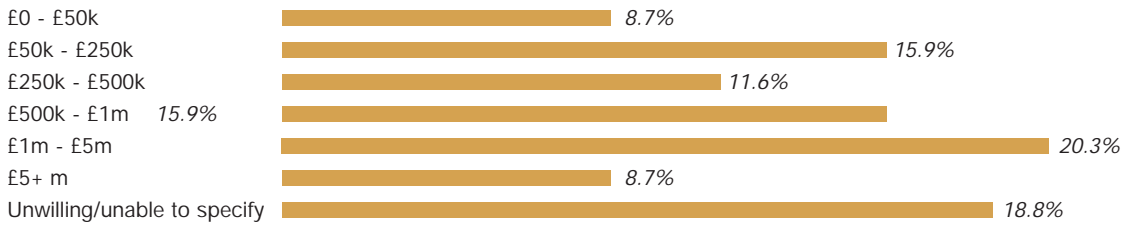
### 9. If you moved your business to the Parish of Aldermaston, what brought you here?



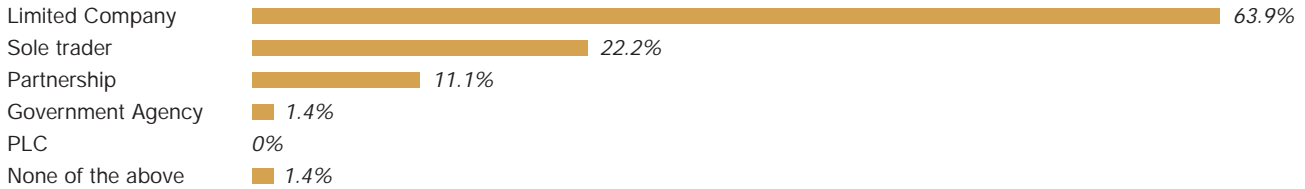
### 10. Free text answer

## SECTION – 1 CORE QUESTIONS

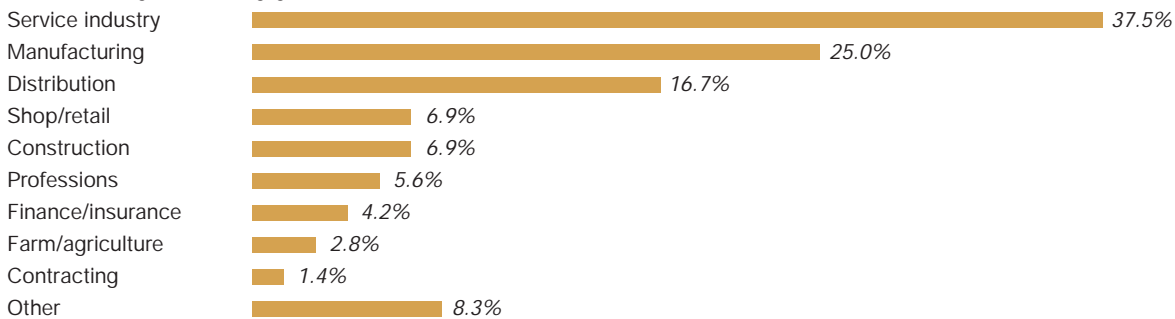
### 11. What is the annual turnover of your business?



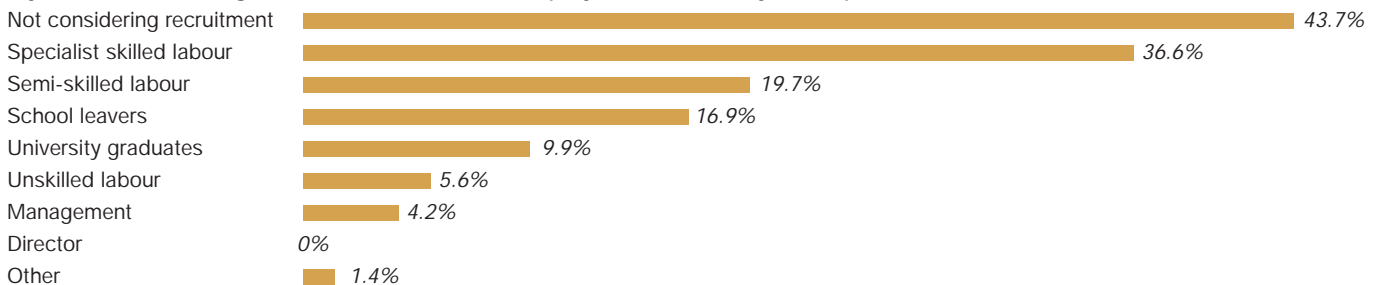
### 12. What is your type of business?



### 13. How would you classify your business?

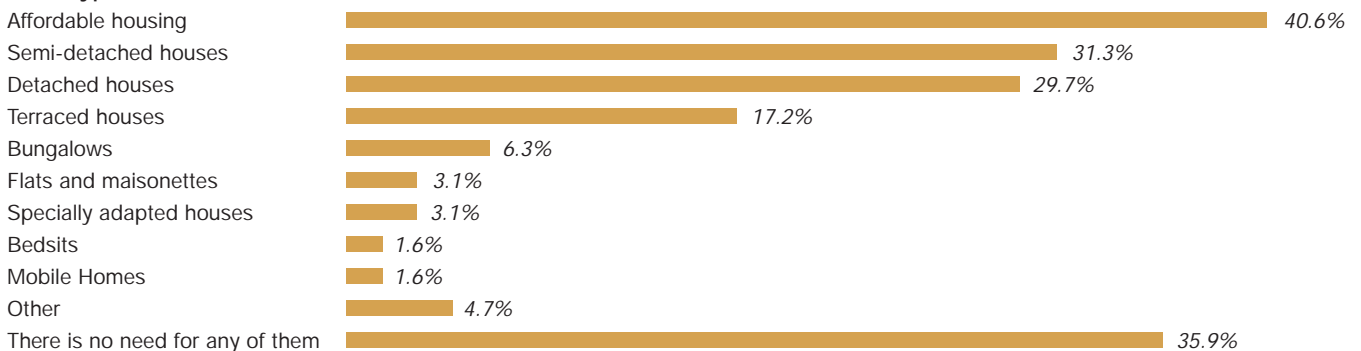


### 14. If you are considering the recruitment of new employees, would they be required to be?

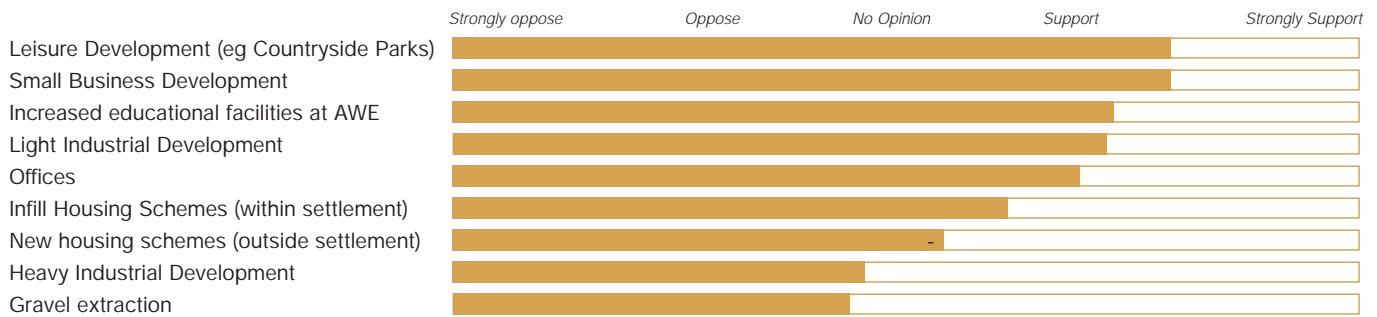


## SECTION 2 – PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

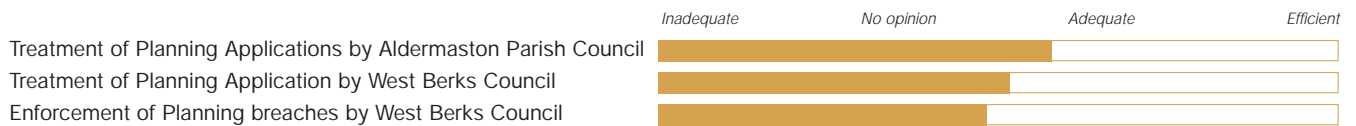
### 15. What types of homes are needed in the Parish of Aldermaston?



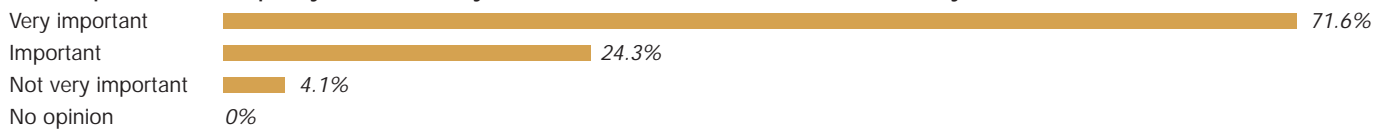
16. How do you feel about the following sorts of development in the Parish of Aldermaston?



17. How do you feel Planning Matters are dealt with?



18. How important is the quality of the countryside around the Parish of Aldermaston to you?

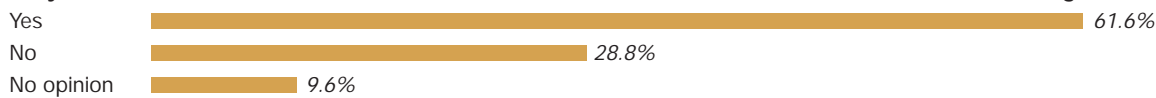


19. Do you believe AWE poses a health/security risk?

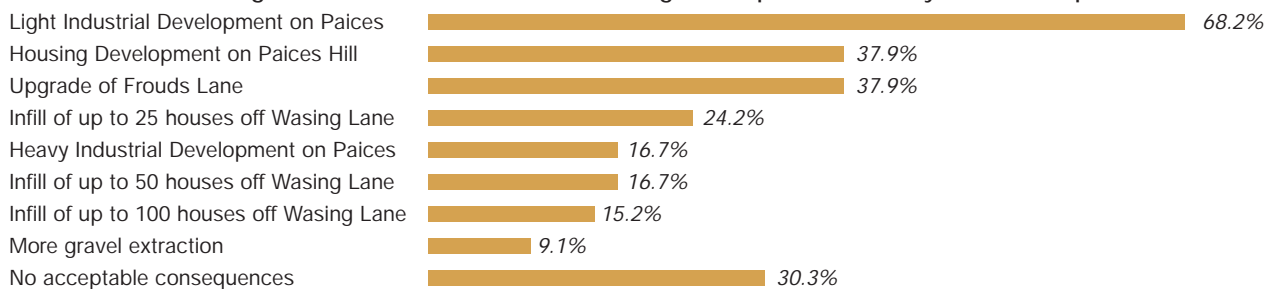


### SECTION 3 – VILLAGE RELIEF ROAD

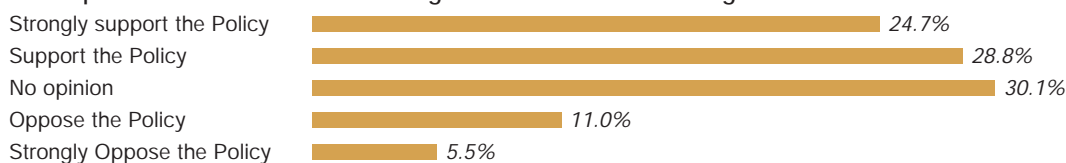
20. Do you think that Aldermaston needs a Relief Road that would divert the A340 around the Village?



21. If there is to be a Village Relief Road, which of the following consequences would you find acceptable as a trade-off?



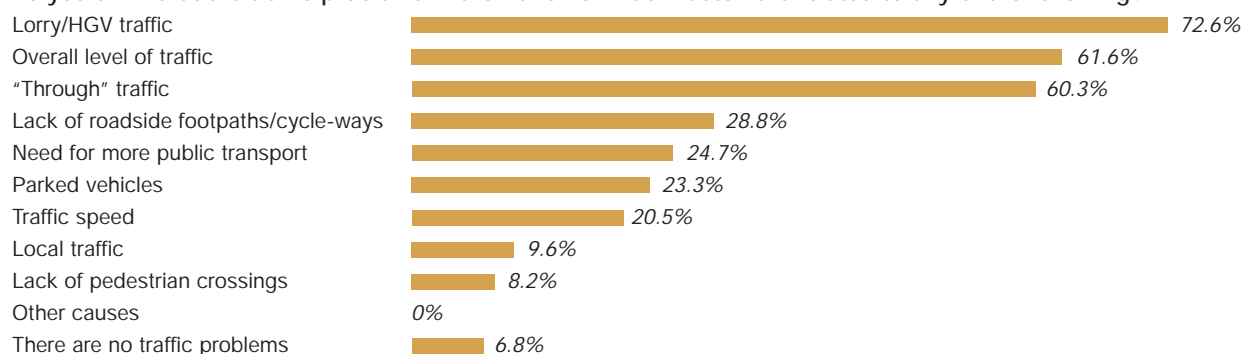
22. What is your opinion of the Parish Council Policy of objecting to consideration of any further housing and/or industrial development in the Parish until a Village Relief Road has been agreed?



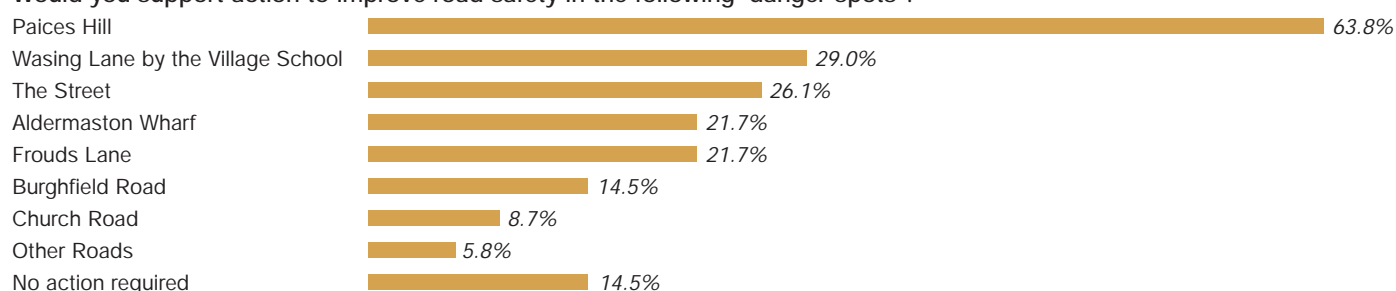


## SECTION 4 – TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

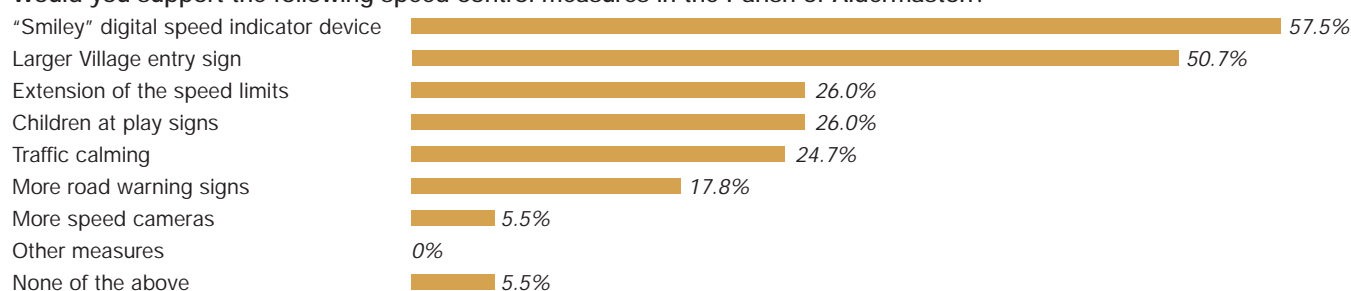
### 23. Do you think that the traffic problems in the Parish of Aldermaston are related to any of the following?



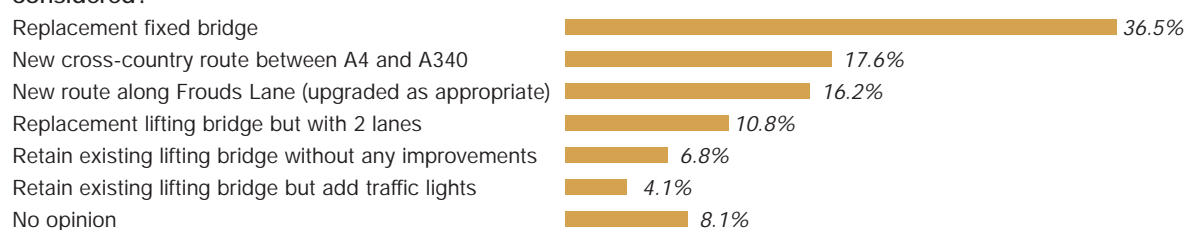
### 24. Would you support action to improve road safety in the following 'danger-spots'?



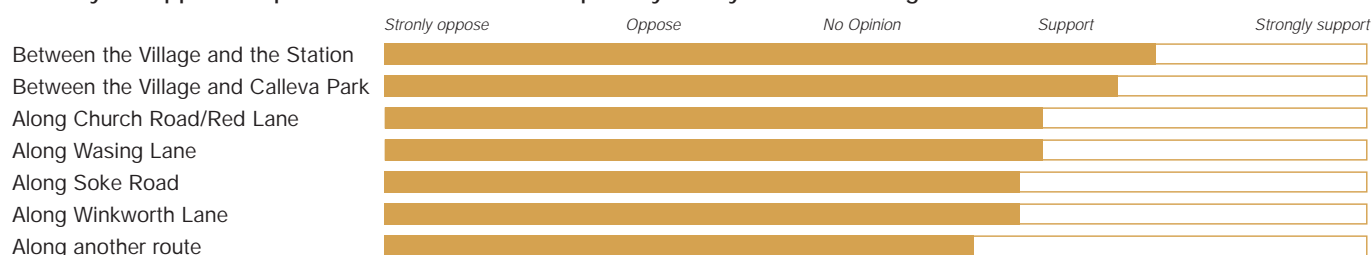
### 25. Would you support the following speed control measures in the Parish of Aldermaston?



### 26. The Lifting Bridge at the Wharf is considered a bottle-neck and incurs high maintenance costs. What alternative should be considered?



### 27. Would you support the provision of a roadside footpath/cycleway at the following locations?



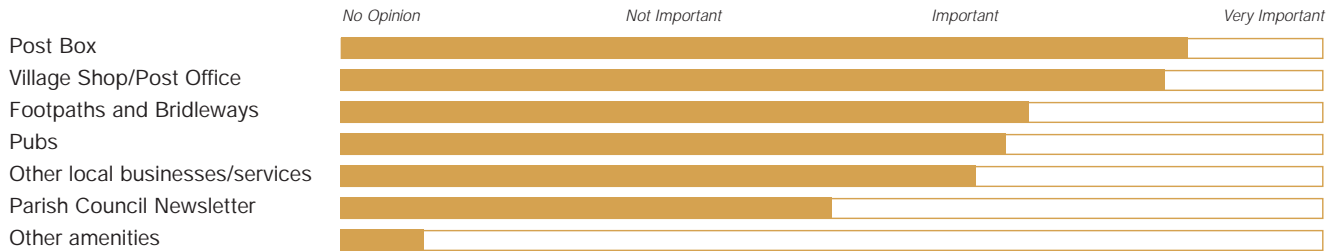
28. How many times a week would you or your employees use the following services if the service was sufficient and integrated as appropriate?

	Daily	weekly	monthly	never
Bus	13.2%	5.9%	1.5%	79.4%
Train	7.4%	11.8%	7.4%	73.5%
Community Link Station - Tadley	13.2%	5.9%	8.8%	72.1%
Local taxi	0.0%	7.4%	8.8%	83.8%

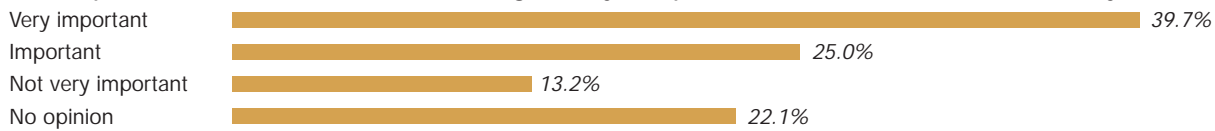
29. Free text answer

## SECTION 5 – PARISH AMENITIES

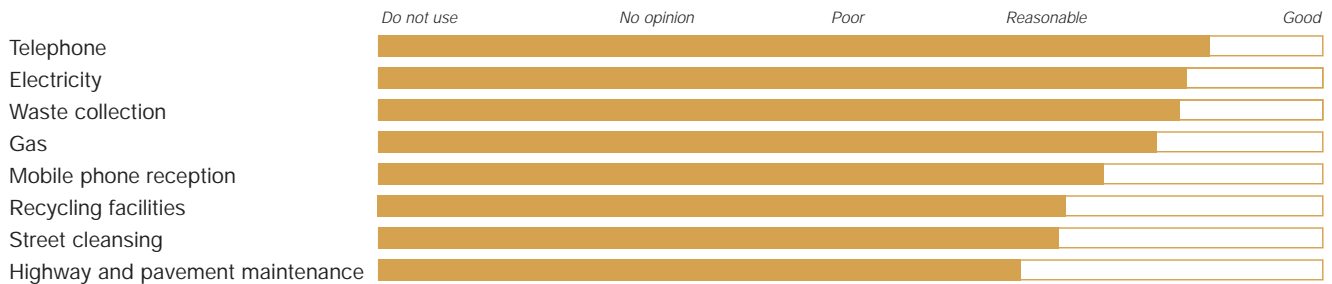
30. How important to you are the following Parish amenities?



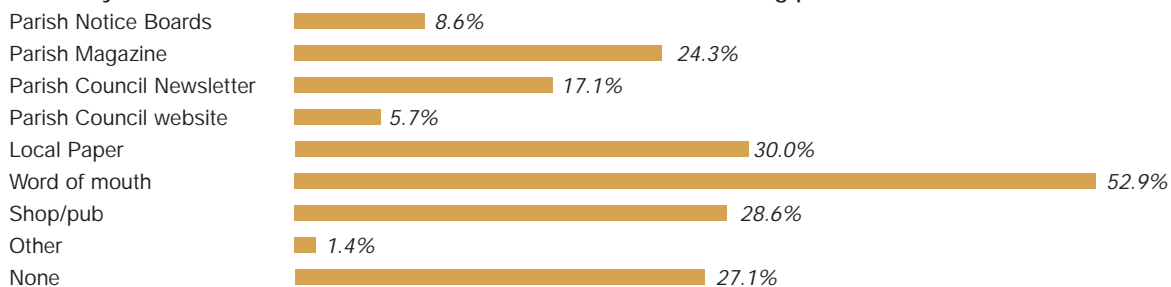
31. How important are the local schools (including nursery and pre-schools) to the business community?



32. What is your opinion of the following services?



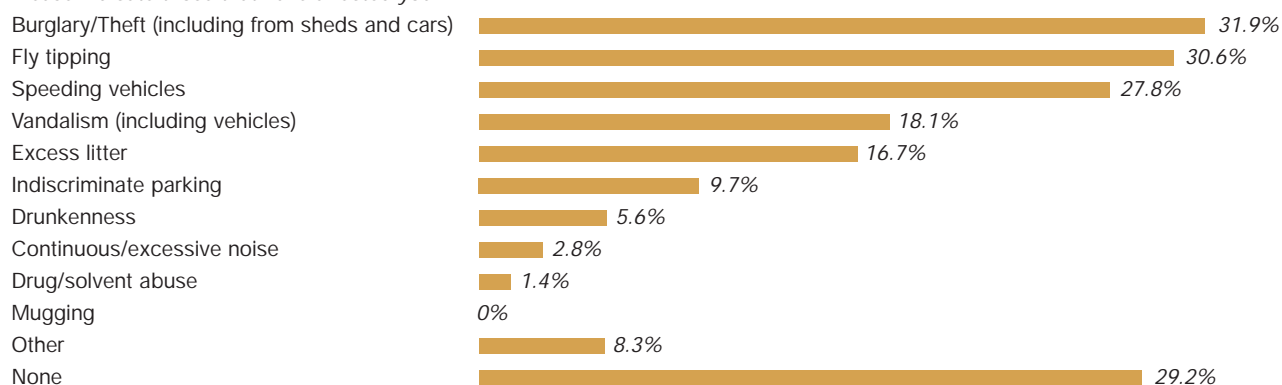
33. How do you find what facilities are available or what events are taking place in the Parish of Aldermaston?



## SECTION 6 – CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

34. Have your business or employees witnessed or been subjected to any crime or anti-social behaviour in the Parish of Aldermaston?

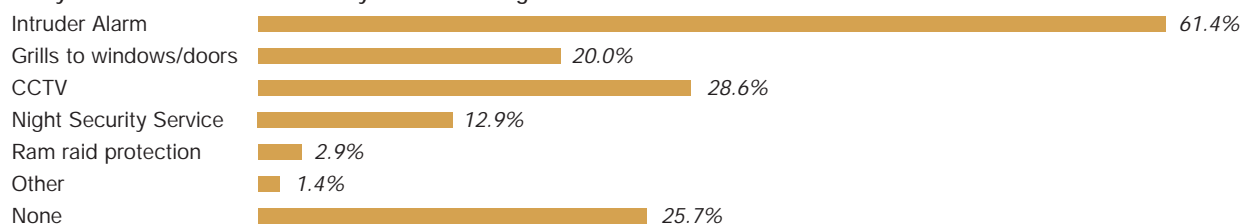
*Please indicate those that have affected you.*



35. Do you regard the police coverage of the Parish of Aldermaston to be?

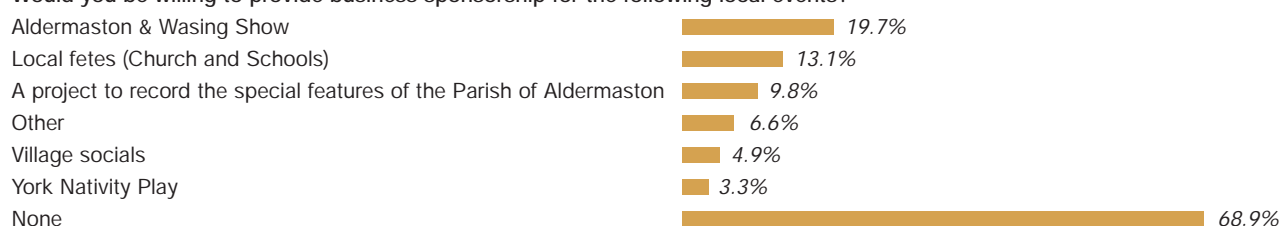


36. Has your business had to install any of the following?



## SECTION 7 – AND FINALLY

37. Would you be willing to provide business sponsorship for the following local events?



38. Free text answer

# ACTION PLAN

**GLOSSARY:** ACAG Aldermaston Community Action Group    APC Aldermaston Parish Council    APPWG Aldermaston Parish Plan Working Group  
 BNAG Burghfield Neighbourhood Action Group    CPRE Council for the Protection of Rural England    FGW First Great Western (Train Operator)    MOD Ministry of Defence (Police)  
 PCs Other local Parish Councils    PHC Parish Hall Management Committee    Tadley TC Tadley Town Council    TVP Thames Valley Police    WBC West Berkshire Council

Objective	Actions	Desirability (H/M/L)	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Resource Implications
<b>1. Planning and the Environment</b>						
<b>1.1 Gravel Extraction</b> Prevent further gravel extraction sites	Work with neighbouring Parish Councils to ensure that the WBC Minerals Plan reflects the views of the Parish	High	Immediate	APC	CPRE ACAG WBC Other PCs	£10,000?
<b>1.2 Planning Enforcement</b> Ensure that conditions imposed in Planning Applications are enforced	Apply constant pressure on WBC Enforcement Officer, with escalation as appropriate	High	Immediate	APC	APPWG WBC Other PCs	None
<b>1.3 Open countryside.</b> Reinforce protection of the Open Countryside	(i) Seek ways of highlighting the rural nature of the Parish use special features (ii) Resist Planning Applications for development of greenfield sites	High	Aug 2006	(i) APPWG  (ii) APC	(i) APC WBC  (ii) APPWG WBC	None identified
<b>1.4 Noise</b> Reduce disturbance from Noise etc. to acceptable levels	List areas with special needs/find ways of control or elimination	Medium	Aug 2006	APPWG	APC WBC	None identified
<b>1.5 Leisure Pursuits</b> Encourage greater use of leisure facilities	(i) Initiate Historic Walks and Open Garden Days (ii) Publicise existing recreational facilities such as Paices Hill and Butts Lakes	Medium	(i) Aug 2006  (ii) Dec 2005	APPWG	WBC APC	£300-500
<b>1.6 Special Features of the Parish</b> Produce a Record of the Special Features of the Parish	(i) Set up Local Group. (ii) Investigate costs and funding sources (iii) List features and record historic background and pictures.	Medium	(i) Dec 2005 (ii) Mar 2006 (iii) Aug 2006	APPWG	Ladies Group Schools Church APC WBC (Jeremy Davy or Duncan Coe)	£1,500
<b>1.7 Affordable Housing</b> Encourage greater provision of affordable housing	Monitor WBC quotas to ensure local needs are met	Medium	On Planning Application	APC	APPWG WBC	None
<b>1.8 Old Stocks Farm</b> Improve child safety from skip lorries transiting Travellers Site	Investigate provision of access for Aldermaston Skip lorries that is separate from the Travellers Site	Medium	Dec 2005	APPWG	APC WPC Site Owner Skip Operator	Unknown
<b>1.9 Small Business</b> Are serviced offices required?	(i) investigate the demand (ii) If demand significant, identify suitable locations	Medium	(i) June 2006 (ii) end 2006	APPWG	WBC APC	None
<b>2. Traffic and Public Transport</b>						
<b>2.1 Traffic</b> Reduce Traffic volumes (especially HGV) through Village by provision of a Relief Road	(i) Provide Aldermaston Parish Council (APC) with the relevant statistical data from the Parish Plan exercise to support their discussions with WBC for a Relief Road  (ii) Support APC during the consultation phases of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WBC Local Development Framework (including any appropriate reclassification of Paices Hill)</li> <li>• WBC Local Transport Plan</li> <li>• WBC Freight Transport Strategy</li> </ul>	High	(i) Completed July 2005  (ii) end 2005	(i) APPWG  (ii) APC	(i) APC  (ii) APPWG	None

Objective	Actions	Desirability (H/M/L)	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Resource Implications
<b>2.2 Footpath to Station</b> Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety by provision of footpath or cycleway between Village and station	(i) Lobby WBC (Mark Edwards) for inclusion in Footway Improvement Programme (ii) Investigate sources of alternative funding (iii) Implement	High	(i) July 2006 (ii) end 2006 (iii) 2010	(i) APC (ii) APPWG (iii) WBC	(i) APPWG (ii) APC (iii) APC	Total cost of project provisionally estimated by WBC as £100k
<b>2.3 Village Entry Signs</b> Improve road safety by the provision of larger Village Entry signs	(i) Work with WBC to determine whether existing signs meet DfT guidelines (ii) Liaise with WBC (Neil Stacey) for suitable design and wording of new signs (iii) Seek sources of funding (iv) Implement	Medium	(i) Oct 05 (ii) end 05 (iii) Mar 06 (iv) end 06	(i) WBC (ii) APPWG (iii) APPWG (iv) WBC	(i) APPWG APC (ii) WBC/APC (iii) APC/WBC (iv) APC	4 signs @ £250 each
<b>2.4 Speed Limits</b> Improve road safety by the extension of speed limits: Reading Road Silchester Road Church Road Paices Hill (Calleva)	(i) Provide Aldermaston Parish Council with detailed proposals and justifications (ii) Formally request consideration by the Speed Limit Review Board at their July 2005 meeting	Medium	Completed, APC's email of 11th May to Andrew Garrett of WBC refers	(ii) APPWG (ii) APC	(i) APC (ii) APPWG WBC	None
<b>2.5 "Smiley"</b> Improve road safety at The Wharf by provision of "Smiley" vehicle activation device	(i) Monitor the effectiveness of the WBC trial near Hungerford (ii) Lobby WBC for the provision of a Smiley(s) at the Wharf	Medium	(i) by end 2005 (ii) by end 2006	(i) WBC (ii) APPWG	(i) APPWG (ii) APC WBC	£4-5,000 per sign
<b>2.6 Public Transport</b> Ensure public transport provision is more in keeping with residents' needs	(i) Liaise with Brian Coney/Mike Travallion (WBC) re bus times and timetables and the provision of a bus stop at the Travellers Site (ii) Lobby WBC, BT police and First Great Western (FGW) re better station security. (iii) Talk to First Great Western, to influence next timetable due Dec 05 re greater service at Aldermaston.	Medium  Medium	(i) Oct 05 (ii) end 05 (iii) Sept 05	(i) APPWG (ii) APC (iii) APPWG	(i) WBC (ii) APPWG WBC/FGW Other PCs (ii) WBC/FGW	Unknown costs for WBC and FGW
<b>2.7 School Warning Sign</b> Improve road safety in Wasing Lane by provision of flashing warning lights outside Primary School	(i) Liaise with WBC and other Parish Councils to identify and cost a suitable arrangement (ii) Work with APC and WBC to identify suitable sources of funding (iii) Install selected system	Medium	(i) Oct 2005 (ii) Mar 2006 (iii) Oct 2006	(i) APPWG (ii) APC (iii) WBC	APC/WBC/ Other PCs	(i) None (ii) None (iii) Est £6k
<b>2.8 Footpath to Calleva Roundabout</b> Improve pedestrian safety by provision of footpath between Travellers' site and Calleva roundabout	(i) Lobby WBC (Mark Edwards) for inclusion in Footway Improvement Programme (ii) Investigate sources of alternative funding (iii) Implement	Low	(i) mid 2006 (ii) end 2006 (iii) 2010	(i) APC (ii) APPWG (iii) WBC	(i) APPWG (ii) APC/WBC (iii) APC	Total cost of project provisionally estimated by WBC as £75k
<b>2.9 Lifting Bridge</b> Remove bottleneck at Wharf by replacing Lifting Bridge with Fixed Bridge	Report to WBC (via APC) the results of the Questionnaire indicating that the most popular replacement option is a fixed bridge	Low	Sept 2005	APPWG	APC/WBC	None

Objective	Actions	Desirability (H/M/L)	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Resource Implications
<b>2.10 Footpath along Winkworth Lane</b> Improve pedestrian access from Ravenswing to Tadley by the provision of a footpath along Winkworth Lane	(i) Lobby WBC (Mark Edwards) for advancement of 2008/09 implementation date in Footway Improvement Programme  (ii) Investigate sources of alternative funding	Low	(i) Sept 2005  (ii) end 2005	(i) APC  (ii) APPWG	(i) APPWG WBC Site Owner  (ii) APC WBC Site Owner	Total cost of project provisionally estimated by WBC as £20k
<b>2.11 Dedicated Car Park</b> Improve road safety in Village by provision of a dedicated car parking area	(i) Liaise with APC to determine potential size, location and cost  (ii) Assist APC in their discussions with WBC re potential sources of funding, possibly Section 106  (iii) Construct car park	Low	(i) Dec 2005  (ii) Jul 2006  (iii) 2008	(i) APPWG  (ii) APC  (iii) WBC	(i) APC  (ii) APPWG  (iii) APC	(i) None  (ii) None  (iii) to be determined
<b>3. Parish Amenities</b>						
<b>3.1 Footpaths</b> Make Parish footpaths more accessible	(i) Survey and improve signage  (ii) Investigate possibility of circular routes  (iii) Advertise role of APC Footpaths Officer as the reporting point for footpath obstruction and damage	High	(i) end 2005  (ii) end 2006  (iii) end 2005	(i) APPWG  (ii) APPWG  (iii) APC	(i) APC  (ii) APC  (iii) APPWG	To be determined
<b>3.2 Recreation Facilities</b> Ensure provision of adequate facilities for the youth of the Parish	(i) Improve grass surface at the Recreation Field  (ii) Provide skateboard ramp	(i) High  (ii) High	(i) end 2006  (ii) end 2006	(i) APC  (ii) APPWG	(i) APPWG  (ii) APC  (WBC Recreation can offer advice on funding)	(i) £8k(?)  (ii) £8-10k
<b>3.3 Map</b> Provide Parish Map(s) for display purposes	(i) Identify/Design suitable map  (ii) Investigate cost; printing, laminating, and locations etc  (iii) Find out about legal factors such as copyright  (iv) Implement	Medium	(i) end 2005  (ii) Mar 2006  (iii) Mar 2006  (iv) end 2006	APPWG	WBC APC	£500?
<b>3.4 Notice Boards</b> Provide more Parish Council Notice Boards	Falcon Fields  Feasibility studies for cost and location	Medium	March 2006	APC	APPWG	£200?
<b>3.5 Sport and Education</b> Use the School and Parish hall for sport and education	(i) Check consents with WBC, School Governors, and Parish Hall Committee (PHC)  (ii) Find out the cost of using the school and Parish Hall for sport and adult education  (iii) Investigate which sports/education are desired by Parishioners and how to implement, including staffing	Medium	Oct 2006	APPWG	WBC School Governors PHC WB Life Long Learning Partnership Newbury College Chris Gilbert 01635 845000  (WBC Recreation can offer advice on operational element)	To be determined
<b>3.6 Awareness of Parish Amenities</b> Publicise amenities in the area such as the William Penney Theatre and the AWE Social Club activities	(i) Contact relevant organisations to suggest they publicise in the Parish magazine, notice boards and web site  (ii) Publicise useful telephone numbers in the parish magazine, on the website and on Parish notice boards	Low	(i) Sept 2005  (ii) end 2005	APPWG	APC Web master Editor Parish Magazine	None

Objective	Actions	Desirability (H/M/L)	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Resource Implications
<b>4. Health and Community Services</b>						
<b>4.1 Good Neighbour Scheme</b> Provide an appropriate Scheme	(i) Research existing schemes (WBC suggest Wiltshire LINK schemes and Surrey Good Neighbour Schemes) (ii) Assess help already available (iii) Recruit volunteers for Good Neighbour Scheme	High	End 2006	APPWG	WBC – Nigel Owen (Community Care) Aldermaston Ladies Group Church Volunteer Centre West Berkshire (Gary Poulson 01635 49004)	To be determined
<b>4.2 Sheltered Housing</b> Establish provision as required	Consult with WBC and Housing Associations to determine what facilities are currently available	Medium	End 2005	APPWG	Sovereign Housing Rural Housing Trust WBC	None
<b>4.3 Pre-School Group</b> Establish provision as required	(i) Consult with Aldermaston Primary School and parents of Toddler Group (ii) Assess need by survey	Medium	March 2006	APPWG	Aldermaston Primary School WBC Early Years and Child Care Team	To be determined
<b>4.4 Baby Clinic</b> Establish provision as required	Consult with parents of Toddlers Group and WBC to determine what facilities are required and what are currently available	Low	March 2006	APPWG	WBC Social Services	None
<b>4.5 Nursing Home</b> Establish provision as required	Consult WBC Social Services to determine what facilities are available and required	Low	March 2006	APPWG	WBC Social Services	None
<b>5. Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour</b>						
<b>5.1 Police Cover</b> Increase cover to an acceptable level	Liaise with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and MOD	High	Oct 2006	APPWG	TVP / MOD APC / WBC BNAG	None
<b>5.2 Reported Crime</b> Improve call-out time	Liaise with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and MOD	High	March 2006	APPWG	TVP / MOD APC / WBC BNAG	None
<b>5.3 Speeding Vehicles</b> Reduce disturbance caused by speeding vehicles	More use of SID Investigate traffic calming on appropriate roads	High	Immediate	APPWG	APC WBC TVP BNAG	None
<b>5.4 Fly Tipping</b> Decrease impact and frequency of fly tipping	(i) Publicise phone number of Street Care (ii) Monitor WBC rubbish clearing efficiency Investigate installation of surveillance cameras at hot spots (iii) Improve access to WBC Recycling facilities to make it easier and cheaper for man and van to dispose of rubbish (cheaper than clearance?)	High	Dec 2006	APPWG	APC WBC BNAG	Possible saving of clearance costs?
<b>5.5 Station Car Park</b> Improve security and reduce vandalism in the Station car park	Encourage the development of the derelict areas on both sides of the railway line. (Small business development could open up the area provide better lighting and local area CCTV)	High	End 2006	APPWG	APC WBC Site owner Other PC's BNAG	None
<b>5.6 Street Lighting</b> Provide street lighting in Winkworth lane	Improvements via Section 106 Funds eg current planning application for sports development on Barlows Plantation	Medium	End 2007	APPWG	Tadley TC APC WBC BNAG	To be determined
<b>5.7 Dog Fouling</b> Reduce dog fouling in Fishermans Lane and The Wharf	Action through PC newsletter and provide signs to remind offenders of their responsibility to the community	Medium	Dec 2006	APPWG	APC BNAG	Cost of signs

# MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP AND WORKING PARTIES

Janet Barnes – resigned July 2005

Chris Chapman

Councillor Mike Cunningham – resigned October 2004

Councillor Margaret Dadswell

Tony Girling

Andrew Hazelden

Peter Hulme

Bob Jones

Chris Kirkby

Hilary Manser

John Nixon

Councillor Rob O'Brien

Jane O'Halloran

Ryan Pincott – Youth Representative

Ken Ray - Chairman

David Raymer

Josea Raymer

Councillor Dave Shirt – Vice-Chairman

Adrian Thomas

Teresa Thomas

Sandra Timney – resigned March 2005

Roland Wardle – Youth Representative



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Aldermaston Parish Plan Steering Group was supported by the Aldermaston Parish Council and Community Action West Berkshire whose Parish Plan Development Officer, Sarah Ward, was a constant source of guidance. It received grants of £5,000 from “Awards for All” (National Lottery) and £1,000 from the Parish Council following applications prepared by Bill Scott, the Aldermaston Parish Council Clerk.

Greenham Common Trust provided Parish Appraisal Questionnaire Software and Mellissa Elliot of their staff assisted Dave Shirt and Peter Hulme with Questionnaire Data Input and Analysis.

We were fortunate in the expertise available amongst residents of the Parish. Bob Jones a Typographer/Design Consultant designed the Questionnaires and the Plan for publication. Tony Girling of Mornington Software Consultants was our IT Consultant. The photographs were taken by Hilary Manser, John Nixon, Peter Oldridge, Ange Smart and Bob Jones. The majority of the work for the Plan was therefore accomplished “In-House”.

The Consultation Report for the Travellers’ Sites at Old Stocks Farm was undertaken by Councillors Clive Vare and Margaret Dadswell. The consultation was facilitated by Su Ormerod the Senior Community Development Officer for the sites.

Joyce Gregory and the Campbell Family together with the Parish Website were a resource for the Parish History.

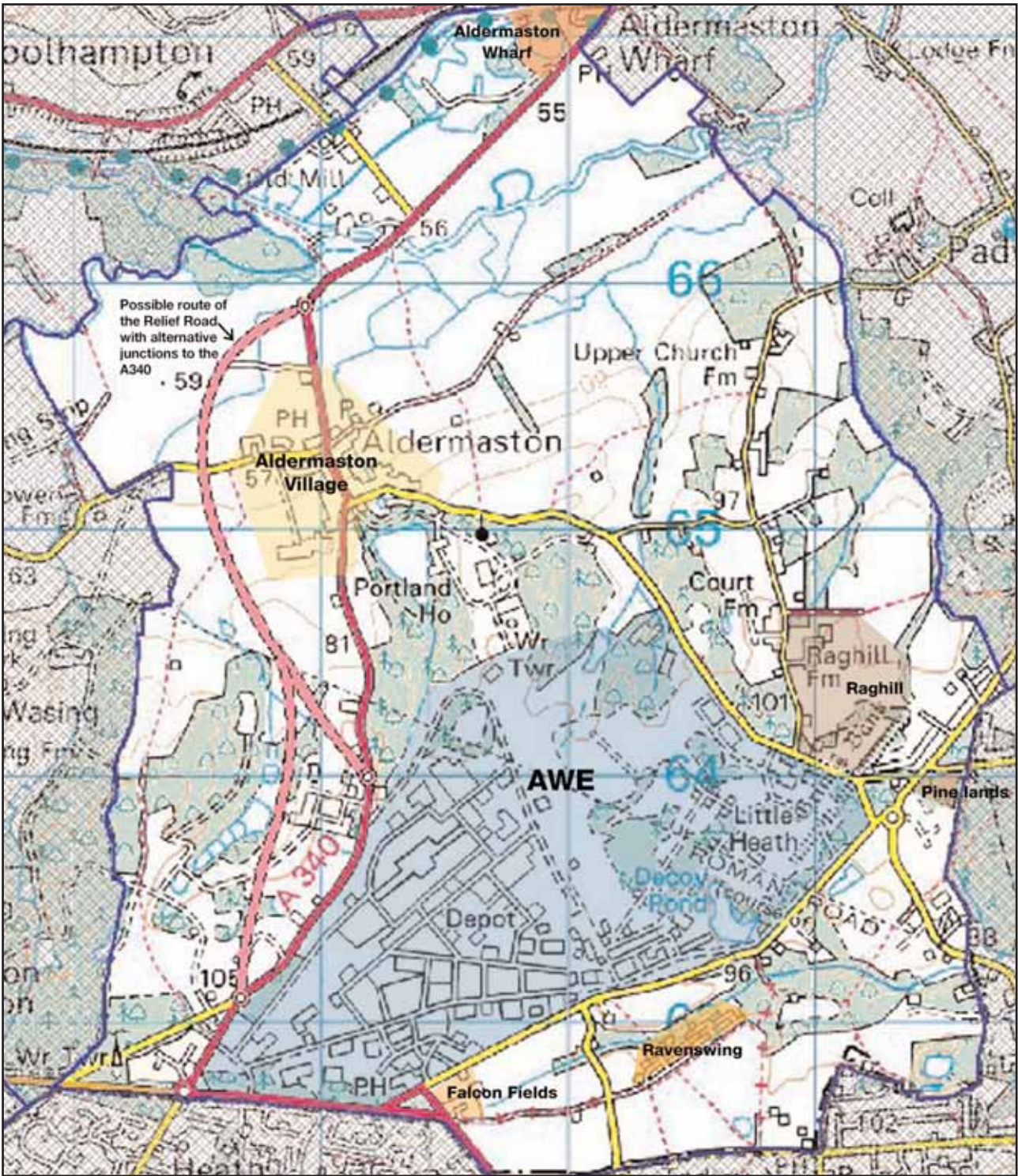
Our thanks are due to the numerous volunteers who undertook the delivery and collection of Questionnaires and the final Plan.

Kenneth Ray OBE  
*Chairman Aldermaston Parish Plan Steering Group.*



# ALDERMASTON PARISH

This map shows the extent of the Parish Boundary



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