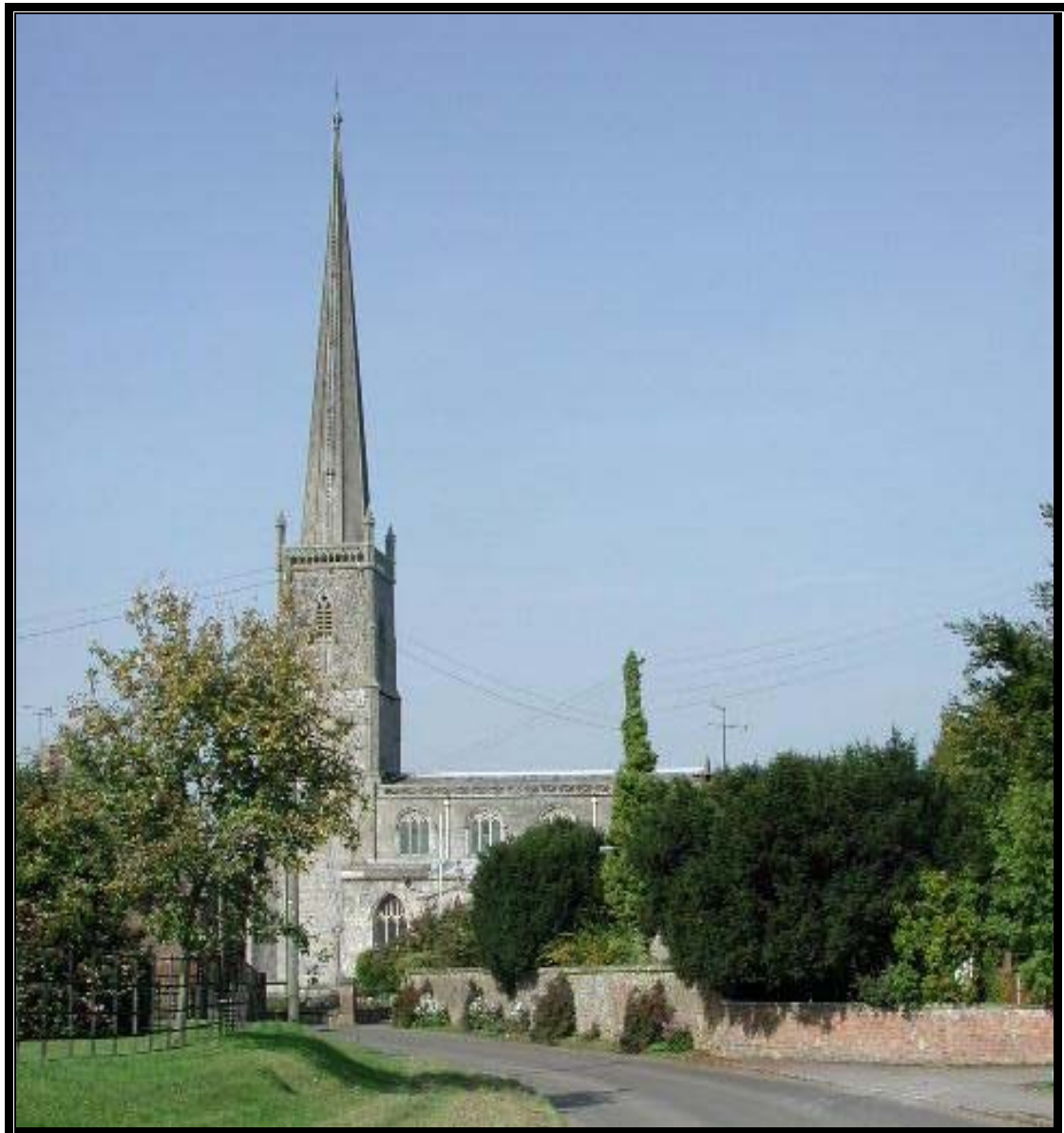


Slimbridge Parish & Community Plan

2010



December 2010

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Introduction

On the 30th September 2009, following an open meeting attended by 30 parishioners in the Village Hall, Slimbridge Parish Council set up a Working Group to undertake a detailed survey of all the households within the Parish and prepare a detailed Parish & Community Plan for the future. Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) provided excellent support and advice throughout all stages of preparation of the Parish Plan. A detailed questionnaire was prepared and 420 questionnaires were distributed through the Parish during February 2010. 305 households completed the questionnaire representing 72% of all parishioners.

The Parish Plan represents the views and opinions of the majority of the Parish and identifies the main issues and concerns of parishioners.

All results quoted in the Parish Plan are based on the information obtained from the returned questionnaires and from an open meeting held in the Village Hall on the 5th July 2010 which presented the survey results to the parishioners. Parishioners were invited to prioritise the key issues and propose possible solutions.



The objectives of the Parish Plan are to: -

- 1. Identify the main issues and concerns of the Parishioners**
- 2. Propose solutions for these issues**
- 3. Identify potential improvements to the Parish and Community environment**
- 4. Provide factual evidence to support individuals or organisations running improvement projects.
Such improvement projects may require funding from Parish / District / County Councils or other funding bodies**
- 5. Define the future priorities for the Slimbridge Parish Council.**

Slimbridge Parish Profile

The Parish of Slimbridge includes the communities of Slimbridge, Cambridge, Troytown, Gossington and Shepherds Patch. It is bordered by the Severn estuary to the north-west and the M5 motorway in the south-east. The village of Frampton-on-Severn lies to the north-east and the village of Berkeley to the south-west.

The Parish has existed since the 12th century when it appeared in the Domesday Book as Heslinbruge. The origin of the name is uncertain, but there have been several different spellings over the centuries and it has recently alternated as Slymbridge and Slimbridge.

The 12th Century Church of St John the Evangelist in Slimbridge village dominates the landscape and, with the Village Hall, provides a focal point.

However, the Parish is large with Cambridge / A38, Gossington, Troytown and Shepherds Patch comprising outlying communities with different issues to Slimbridge village itself. This geographical diversity creates a challenge in the future to bring everyone together as a single Parish community. The Parish covers an area of 2,480 acres which was part of the Berkeley Castle Estate, but these were sold to the Ernest Cook Trust in 1945.

Farming continues to form an important contribution to the Parish with 10 farms remaining. 5 farms provide a mix of dairy and arable farming, 2 farms are entirely arable farming and 2 farms entirely dairy farming. There is one farm using organic methods for arable and dairy farming.

There are about 420 households and 1160 parishioners throughout the Parish with 67% of the population having lived in the Parish for more than 11 years.

The Parish is regarded as a popular and safe place to live and includes a thriving and successful Primary / Junior school.

There are a wide range of community groups and organisations offering many social and sports activities.

Tourist facilities that are centred around Shepherds Patch include the world renowned Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Sharpness/Gloucester Canal, a large caravan site and the Tudor Arms Pub/Restaurant with Motel accommodation.

The Sustrans National Cycle Route No. 41 passes through the Parish.

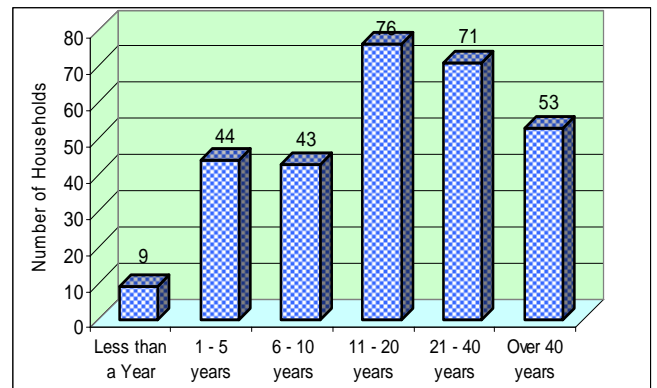
The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) is a substantial tourist attraction receiving up to 2,600 visitors a day. Approximately 240,000 tourists visited the WWT during 2009 and this may grow to 250,000 visitors during 2011. The busy A38 Trunk road passes through the Parish and provides a good bus service to local towns. Other areas of the Parish have little access to public transport. The small rail station of Cam & Dursley lies just outside the boundary. 96% of households use a car at least once a week.

Survey Results (Adults)

The Community.

Over 67% of households who participated in the survey have lived in the Parish for more than 11 years, 39% are employed full time and 41% are retired.

79% of households enjoy living in the Parish and 90% believe that it is a good place to live.



Slimbridge Village Hall

Only 21% of Parishioners are members of the many Parish societies and groups that are active here.

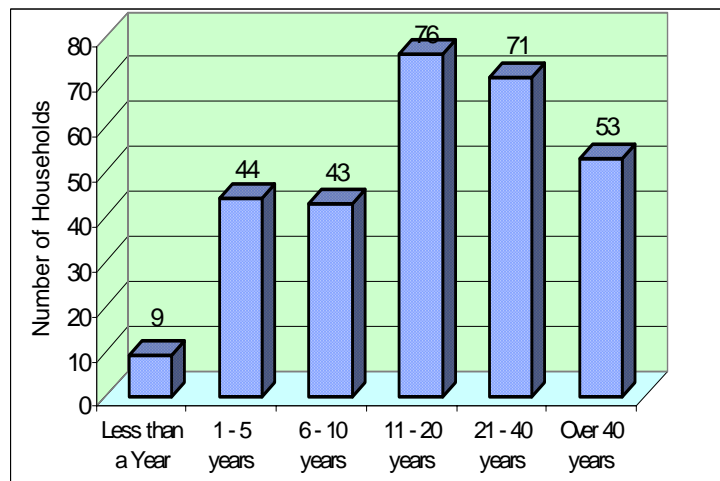
Other interests and personal commitments are the main reason stated for not joining local societies, while many people are unaware of the range of activities available. However, the Village Hall is well used with the Main Hall and Jubilee Room hosting many social events and meetings each week

Parish Amenities

Many of the Parish amenities offer the potential for some development and increased use.

Apart from the Royal British Legion with its excellent location, most of the other amenities involve outdoor activities and events.

Development of these amenities would enhance the lifestyle of parishioners.



Parish Council

The Survey revealed that only 6% of households knew who all the Parish Councillors are, while a further 61% knew some of the Councillors.

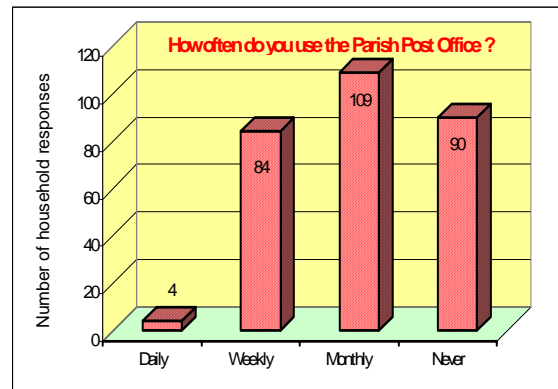
31% did not know who any of the Parish Councillors were.

Most responses asked for a "Who's Who" of the Parish Council, while other suggestions included the opportunity to meet your councillors and more articles about the work undertaken by the Parish Council in the Parish Newsletter. Details of all Parish Councillors will be included in the new Parish website.

Post Office / Shop

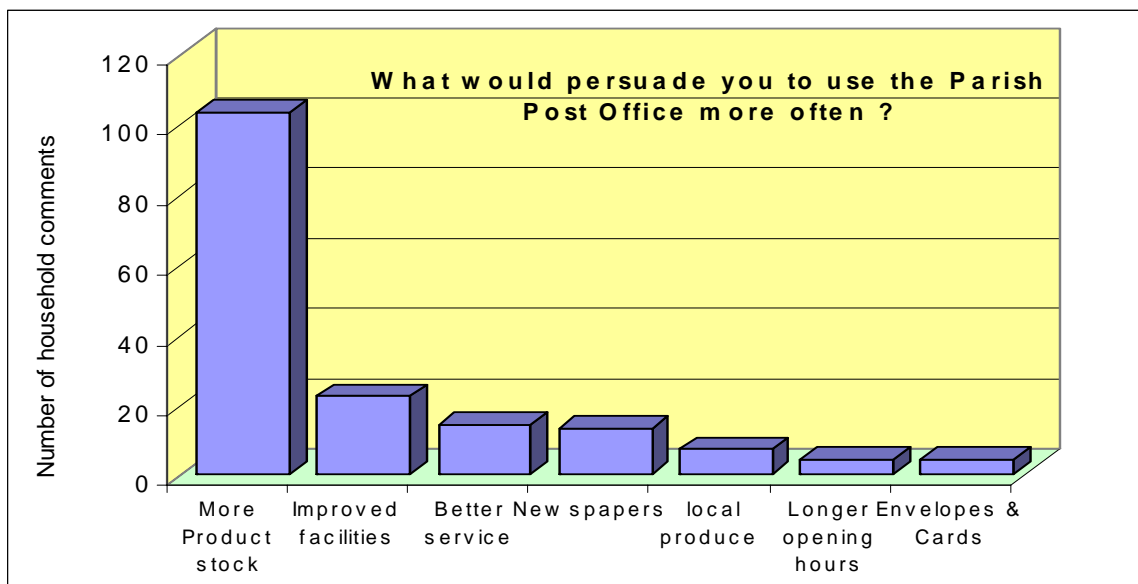
The requirement for a Parish shop with more product stock and improved environment attracted much comment. Many parishioners used the Post Office only on a weekly or monthly basis, with only 1% using it daily.

The Slimbridge Post Office provides a limited service, concentrating mainly on postal activities.



The owners of the Post Office have confirmed that they do not wish to expand the facilities or range of goods on offer.

There has been much comment on the need for a wide range of products including newspapers, birthday cards etc, consumer and dairy products and local produce. Many comments supported a Village Shop that could provide a daily focus for the Parish and also reduce the amount of travelling required to do basic shopping.



Community Safety & Policing

7% of households within the Parish have been a victim of a crime within the past 12 months, while 13% of households believe that anti-social behaviour in the Parish is a problem.

Opinions on the accessibility to the Police Service are split with 31% agreeing that accessibility is easy and 36% disagreeing. A further 33% had no opinion on this.

17% of households agree that the Police Service interacts well with the community while 33% disagree. 50% had no opinion on this and only 50% of respondents were aware the Mobile Police Station visits the Parish. The Parish has 7 Neighbourhood Watch Groups, but details of their contacts are not well known within the Parish.

Parish Communication

The main method of receiving information about what is happening in the Parish are the Parish Newsletters and by word-of-mouth. The Survey showed that the free Parish Newsletter was popular and overwhelmingly the main source of information with 74% referring to it frequently, and only 4% never reading it.

Parish notice boards and local press articles were only occasionally used as sources for information..

80% of households have a computer and most are connected to broadband with an acceptable access speed. However the Parish website was rarely used.

Parish communications offer substantial opportunities for improvement with the benefit of making Parish events and information available more quickly, to a wider audience, and generating a better community spirit.

Community Environment

Cleanliness of the Parish

70% of parishioners consider that the Parish is clean and well kept, while 23% disagree.

Opinions on the condition and safety of the verges and pavements are mixed; 50% consider that they do not pose a safety risk and 42% think that there is a safety risk.

Parishioners from 62% of households would take part in a "Clean up the Parish" day.

Parish Roads

The condition of the Parish roads are considered poor by 76% of parishioners. Following the survey much work has already been carried out by Gloucester and Stroud Councils to improve the condition of the main roads, especially after the substantial frost damage during the winter of 2009. However minor roads remain a problem.

Street lighting

Street lighting comments are generally applicable to the Village of Slimbridge, the A38 road and Cambridge. Other communities within the Parish have very little street lighting installed.

59% agree that street lighting is adequate and 29% disagree.

Only 35% believe that lighting should remain on all night.

Drainage & Flooding

Inadequate road drainage and local flooding are regarded as real problems by parishioners, 56% believe that drainage is inadequate and 63% consider that flooding and standing water is a problem.

Footpaths

Opinions on the condition of footpaths, stiles and signs are mixed with 61% believing that they are in good repair and have adequate way marks and signposts, while 21% disagree and 15% have no opinion on this.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is considered a problem with 51% of parishioners agreeing that more needs to be done to reduce this problem. This was also reflected in additional forceful comments by parishioners during the open evening. 23% disagree that there is a problem and 24% have no opinion on this. Waste bins are installed in some areas, but more are needed, especially in Shepherds Patch where there are many tourists visiting the Sharpness / Gloucester Canal and nearby recreational facilities.

Recycling & Waste collection

There is strong support and commitment within the Parish for recycling activities with 79% support and 86% considering that a fortnightly collection of recyclable material is sufficient.

Waste refuse collection on a weekly basis is supported by 92% of parishioners, while any change to a fortnightly collection service would be supported by only 19% of parishioners.

A local facility for composting garden / green waste is supported by 60% of parishioners but 35% have little interest in or need for this.

Household Energy Saving

Support for household energy saving is strong with 71% having already installed combinations of double glazing, loft insulation, high efficiency boilers, cavity wall insulation, room thermostats and the use of energy saving bulbs. A further 19% would consider installing these facilities, especially the high efficiency boiler.

Only 5% have installed solar electricity / water heating facilities but a further 39% would consider these options in the future.

Bulk Fuel purchase

There is some interest in participating in bulk fuel purchase schemes. These are mainly for logs (63 households) and heating oil (39 households).

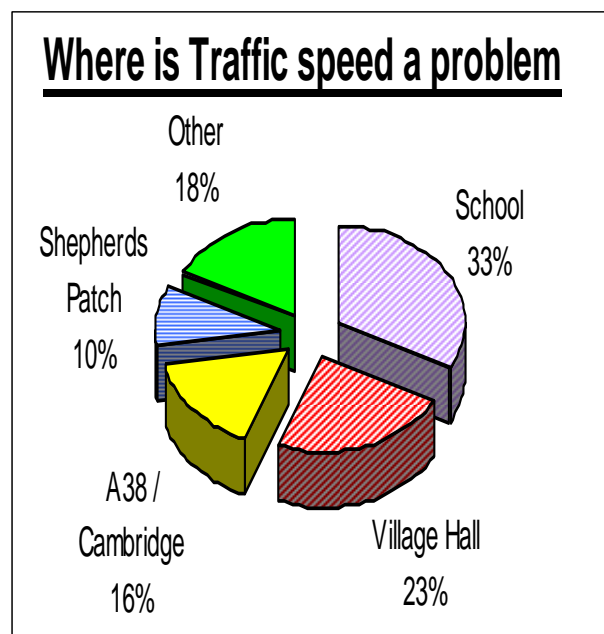
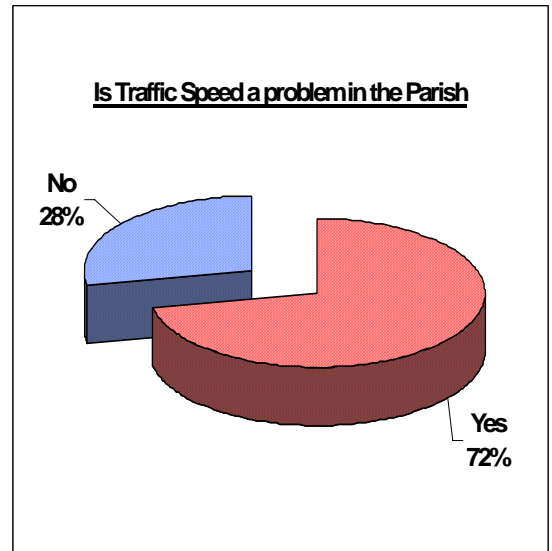
Traffic Speed & Parking

72% of parishioners consider that traffic speed is a problem within the Parish. Traffic surveys have been carried out by Gloucestershire County Council and the results showed that generally, traffic maintained speeds close to the legal speed limits.

Traffic volumes to the WWT are an issue. The GCC surveys were outside the tourist season.

Consideration should be given to carrying out our own Parish traffic survey over an extended period to cover all variances in traffic.

Comments were also made during the open evening on the increasing size and speed of local farm vehicles in the Parish

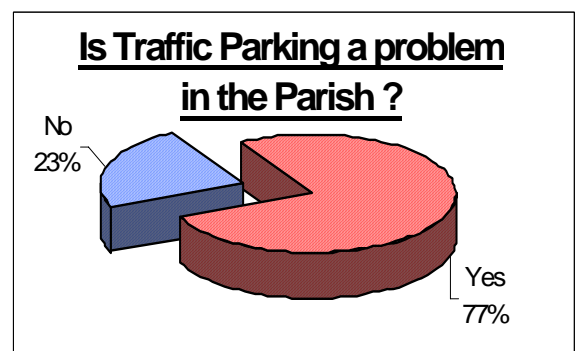


Accident statistics show that the A38 is the most dangerous road in the Parish.

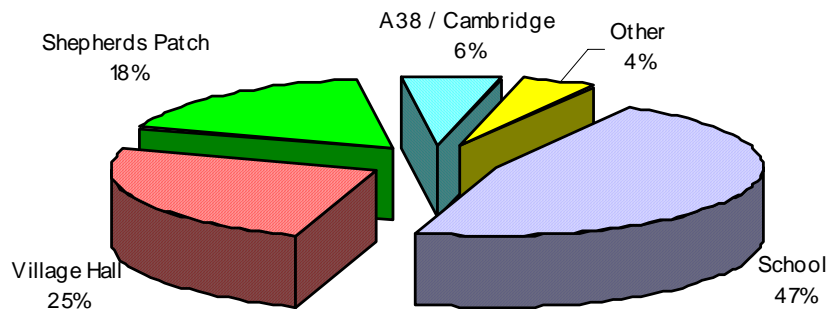
However, the areas where parishioners consider traffic speed a problem are outside the Village School and near the Village Hall. The combination of parked cars and traffic speed combine to increase the hazard in both these areas. Shepherds Patch is also a problem for parking, as many tourists park along one side of the road, effectively creating a single highway for many hours during weekends and causing serious traffic jams. Emergency vehicles cannot obtain any access to Shepherds Patch or WWT during these times.

Traffic Parking.

77% of parishioners state that traffic parking is a problem within the Parish. With narrow roads and substantial local and tourist traffic, little action has been taken by the authorities. Police surveys show that there are very few accidents in the Parish and suggest that the criteria for providing additional restrictions on parking are not met.



Where is Parking a problem ?



Parking outside the school at the start / end of the school day is a visible problem causing congestion and traffic backing up (sometimes to the A38 roundabout).

It appears that parents are not just dropping their children off at the school gate and then driving off, but parking and chatting with other parents until the children have left the playground for their classes. This extends the length of time that this problem occurs.

Not all children get in and out of vehicles on the pavement side.

Neither the Police nor the school staff consider that this parking is a hazard or problem.

Parking outside of the Village Hall is also considered a hazard when travelling north through the village, as a bend in the road at this point prevents cars from seeing oncoming traffic while they are overtaking parked vehicles. Fortunately, there has only been one recent accident between a moving and parked car outside the Village Hall.

Community Services

Health Services

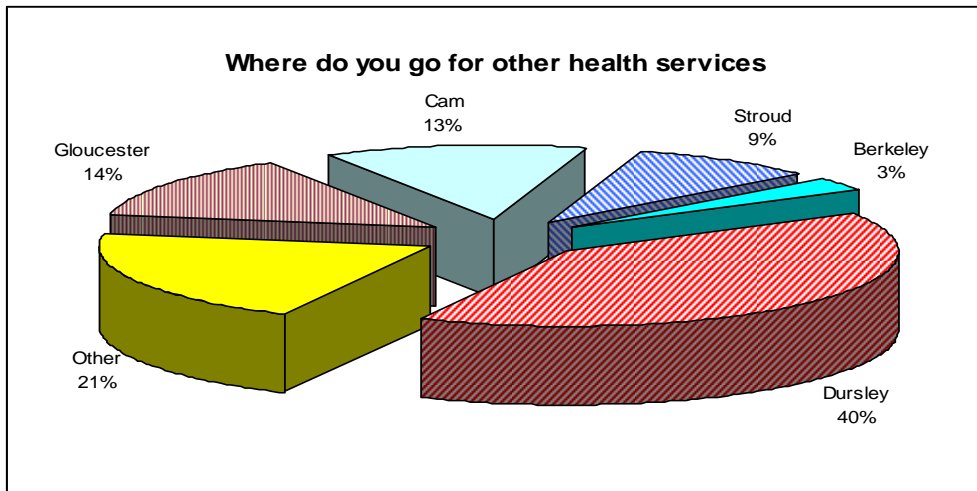
48% of respondents travel to Cam for their GP Services and a further 32% travel to Dursley. 6% use Berkeley while others generally use Stroud or Gloucester

Only 3% experience any difficulty travelling to the GP's surgery.

95% are happy with the service offered by GPs.

Travel to other health services such as dental treatment, opticians, chiropody and childcare clinics is much more diverse, probably due to the specialist diagnostic equipment and treatment required.

99% are happy with the services they get at these health services, but 4% experience difficulty in travelling to these appointments.

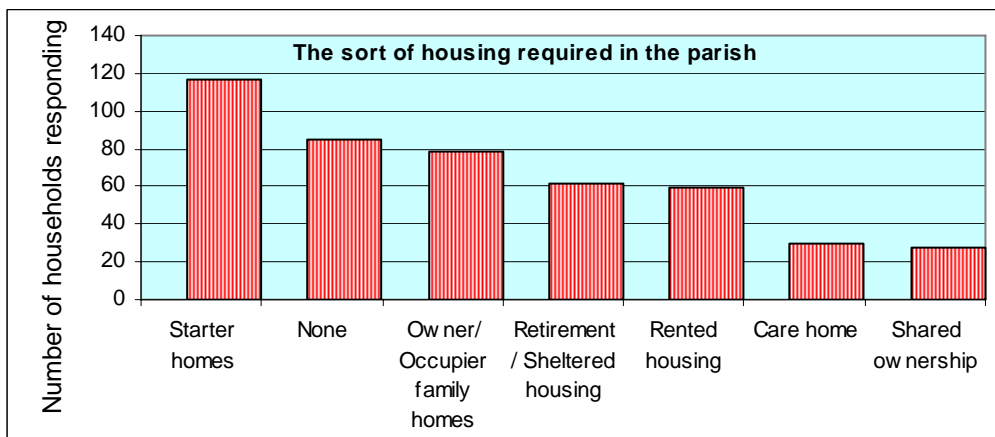


Land use & Planning

10% report that members of their family have had to leave the Parish because of the lack of suitable local employment, while 16% report that family members have had to leave the Parish because of the lack of affordable housing.

13% report that family members will need affordable housing within the next 5 years.

The type of housing that parishioners think will be required in the Parish in future is varied, with starter homes as the most common.



Approval for the development of additional building was generally limited to either single infilling houses (31%) or small groups of up to a maximum of 10 dwellings (34%).

27% did not wish to see any additional building and only 7% would approve of larger developments either on the outer edge of existing housing or in new areas.

Children & Pre-School groups

Only 28 households are using a childminder or pre-school group either in the Parish or elsewhere.

16 households confirmed that provision within the Parish is adequate for their needs; while a further 17 households will have a need for pre-school childcare over the next 4 years.

Education & Lifelong learning

103 households expressed an interest in daytime or evening adult education classes to be held in the Parish and 165 households confirmed no interest. The subjects that attracted the most interest were: Arts & Crafts courses (21 responses); computer training (20 responses), photography, French and cooking each attracting 5 – 7 responses.

Stroud College offer a wide range of courses including Art & Design, computing, languages, leisure health & wellbeing (including cooking classes), English & maths, business & professional development. Courses offered by Stroud College at Dursley Centre Drake House include photography for beginners, computing, English & maths.

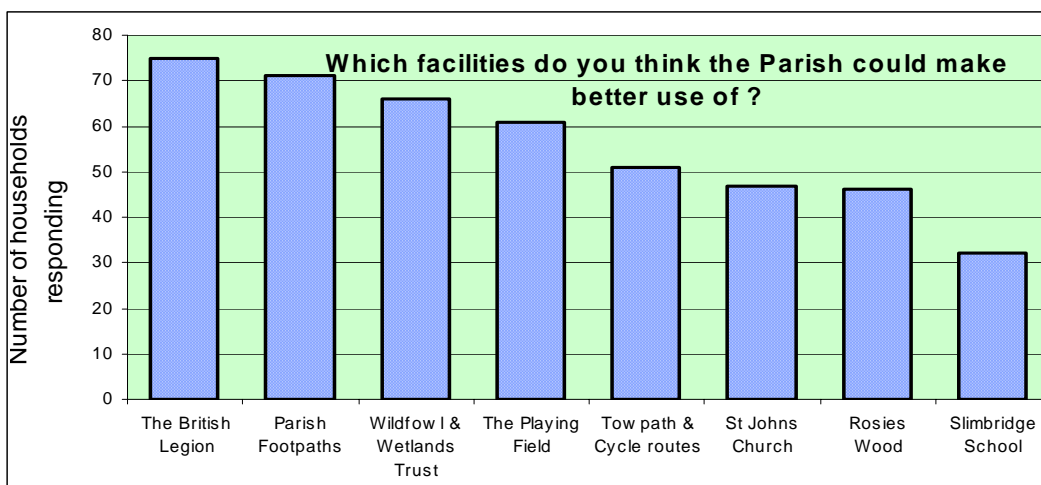
Community Development

The survey asked parishioners what facilities in the Parish could be used to better effect and the responses were encouraging.

Village walks with clearer footpaths and improved signs, or off-road cycle paths were the most popular, while development of the Royal British Legion Social Club to provide a Community Association was also popular. Requests were made for more events to be held at Rosie's Wood. Can the St John the Evangelist Church at Slimbridge offer a tearoom and musical or singing concerts?

Free access to the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust for parishioners was another request.

Obviously there is much potential for development of the Parish facilities to strengthen and grow the Parish community spirit.



Survey Results (Young People)

One Young People's questionnaire was provided per household, to be filled in by any young person in the household aged 5 to 19. In households with more than one young person, they were asked to fill in the questionnaire collectively, ticking all boxes that applied.

Responses: 56 questionnaires were completed.
41 were completed by one person only
14 were completed by two young people
1 was completed by three young people

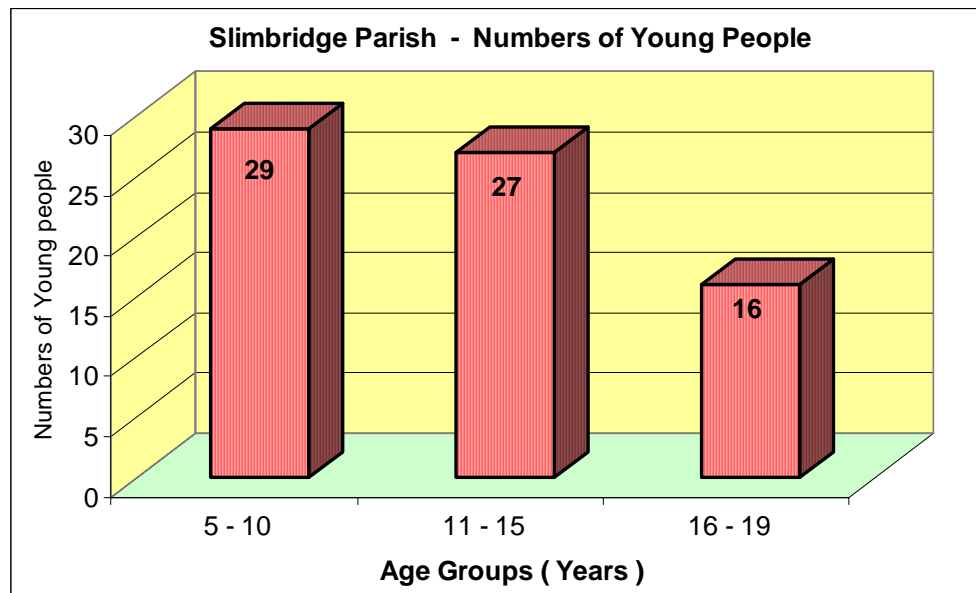
This survey therefore represents the views of 72 young people.

Living in the Parish

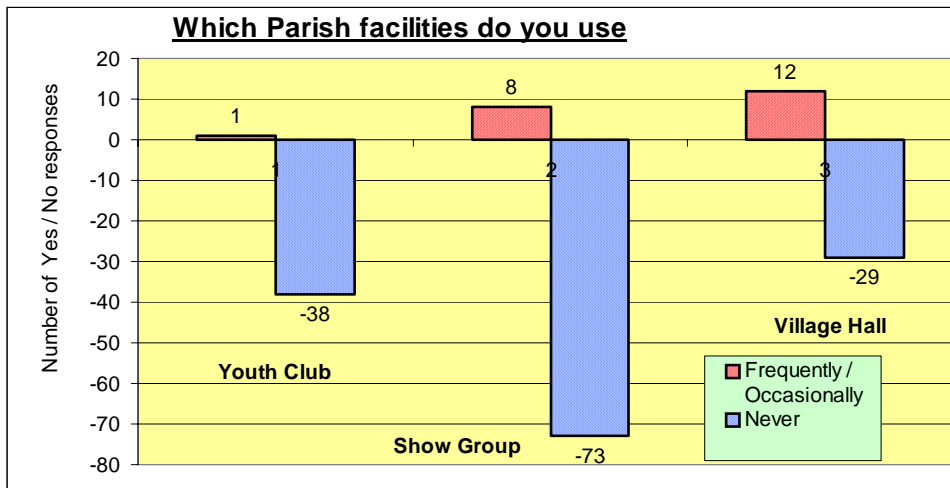
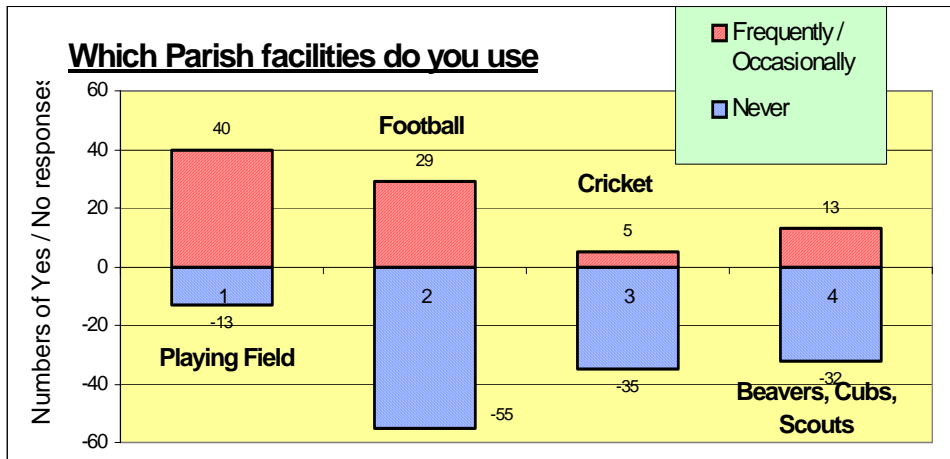
The Young People's survey also asked what they liked most about living in Slimbridge Parish. The peace and quiet of the countryside where they felt safe among a friendly environment was the main response.

Age Groups

The age groups between 5 to 19 years are spread evenly up to 18 years of age and therefore any future development of facilities and activities needs to cover all age groups.



Which Parish facilities do young people use?



The playing field was the most popular and there were also requests for more play equipment to be installed, while football was the second most popular form of entertainment either in a football team or just a kick about amongst friends.

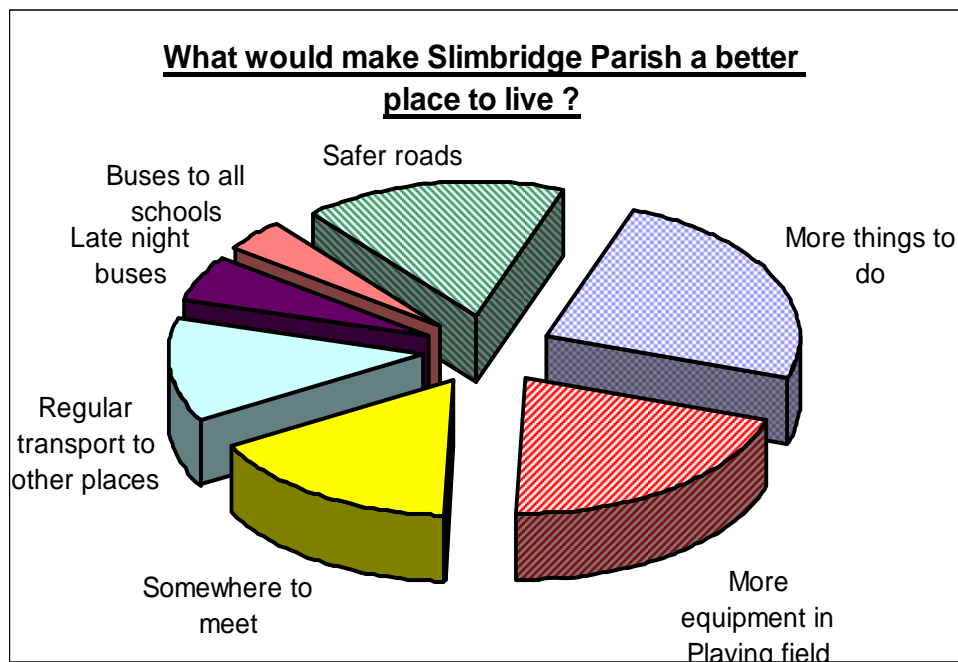
Some form of social or youth club facility is required where the young can meet, especially in the winter months.

Most young people travelled to sporting and social events via family or friend's cars. Several either walked or rode a bike.

What would make Slimbridge Parish a better place to live?

"More things to do" and "more equipment in the playing field" were the main requests by young people.

The Playing Fields Association are already looking at what can be done to improve the playing field facilities, while discussions are already at an early stage for developing other Parish facilities for young people to use in the future.



Key Issues for the Parish

There are several key issues that were raised in the survey and subsequent discussions during the Public Open Day Presentations. These are: -

- **Traffic speed through Slimbridge village**
- **Parking in Slimbridge village, Shepherds Patch and the Old Dursley Road**
- **Facilities and events for young people**
- **Improved facilities and development of the playing fields**
- **Village shopping facilities**
- **Improved Parish communications**
- **Condition of Parish roads, verges and footpaths**
- **Community development**

Each of these key issues needs to be addressed as part of a structured program with a specific timetable for completion.

Some issues can only be resolved by Authorities such as Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council and Slimbridge Parish Council.

There are also some issues that can be resolved by Parish Community Groups working with the Parish Councillors who will be actively involved with each Community Group and without the need to involve the County and District councils.

These issues will require Parish Community Groups who can tackle a specific issue on a part - time basis for the benefit of the Parish.

The issues that can be developed and resolved by Parish Community Groups include: -

- **Improved facilities and development of the playing fields**
- **Village shopping facilities**
- **Improved Parish communications**
- **Community development (This is a combination of better Parish communications, a village shop and facilities for young people)**
- **Parish cleanliness**

The Working Group has already prepared the groundwork for the development of 8 projects which had been identified as key issues and concerns by parishioners. The following pages give the status as at 1st December 2010.

It is planned to put details of these projects onto the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) database on www.grcc.org.uk which can be accessed by all parishioners who wish to monitor progress.

Slimbridge Parish Plan Project No: 1

Title: *Village Shopping Facilities*

Objective: Improve availability of everyday shopping requirements

- Reduce dependence on cars (parts of Slimbridge poorly served by Public Transport)
- Provide additional facilities for those currently experiencing difficulty getting to a supermarket
- Provide another location for villagers to meet
- Possible Links to:
 - Youth Club (common venue)
 - School parking (encourage parking away from the school)

Theme: 5 Business and Economy

Evidence of need: Village survey and additional comments on survey form.

- 1% use the existing shop daily, 30% never
- 32% would use a mobile shop if available
- Written comments on the young people's survey showed support for a "Tuck Shop"

So there is a demand for local shopping, and this would potentially reduce the demand on cars for transport. Support for a Community Shop was also evidenced in written returns.

Survey returns on transport Issues:

- 96% Use a car daily or weekly
- 8% Use a bus daily or weekly
- 6% Have some or severe difficulty getting to a supermarket

It is not known where the 6% who experience difficulty are located; since Slimbridge is a dispersed Parish the location of a Parish shop may not be convenient for all.

However, a local shop would reduce the demand on car transport.

There was a second Post Office / General Store at Cambridge, but this closed. Coaley operate a successful community shop.

Lead Responsibility: David Thomas

Current Status and Issues:

One site considered was the current Post Office which is not supported by the community for a variety of reasons, principally range of goods. It would be difficult for the Post Mistress to justify the investment required to satisfy the aspirations of the parishioners, and she has confirmed she does not want to expand the current Post Office.

The Slimbridge Royal British Legion have agreed in principle to provide premises for a community managed village shop as part of the 2011 refurbishment project. The proposed area is currently used as the Lounge Bar, has a separate entrance available and an outside window. This part of the building is nearest to the road and would have customer parking available.

The steps required are:

- Carry out a brief options study to rank options (Post Office, Portakabin behind the Village Hall, or do nothing).
- Establish a Village Shop support group (which could include member of the RBL and Parish Council)
 - Have initial talks with Stroud Planners
 - Investigate legal status and possible lease arrangements
 - Investigate funding (NB link with C Cowcher to Plunkett Foundation)
 - Survey the Parish to confirm the required level of support
 - Share findings with community at event
- Establish the business plan and survey the Parish to confirm the required level of support. It is expected the minimum turnover would be approximately 100 parishioners spending £10 /week
- Agree the range of products to be provided, for example:
 - newspapers
 - local produce
 - bread / rolls / cake / confectionery
 - milk and milk products
 - long life grocery products
 - fresh fruit and vegetables, and fruit / vegetable boxes
- Contact local suppliers
- Fit out store
- Identify volunteers, opening hours, rotas etc.
- Open for business
 - This unlikely to be before 1st July 2011

Other means of shopping for Parishioners are:

- bus – only viable for those living near the A38
- car / bicycle – nearest shop SPAR at Cam Shell Garage
- milkman – also delivers some groceries
- mobile weekly fish van
- home delivery Tesco / Sainsburys / Waitrose
- (fish and chip van Tuesday evenings)

Slimbridge Parish Plan Project No: 2

Title: *Youth Club and Youth Social Events*

Objective:

Provide more activities (particularly evening) for young people in the Parish

Theme: 14 Young People and Children

Evidence of need:

55% of the Youth Survey Returns wanted more things to do

38% of the Youth Survey Returns wanted somewhere to hang out

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts was the most popular activity (23%) with 20% using the playing fields and 14% being in a football team.

Lead Responsibility: To be advised

Current Status:

Both the Royal British Legion and the Playing Field Committee have offered facilities for a young people's social evening (RBL or Pavilion).

Slimbridge Parish Plan Project No: 3

Title: *Parish Cleanliness*

Objective:

Improve the appearance and attractiveness of the Parish

Theme: 4 Environment

Evidence of need:

- 70% agreed the Parish is clean and well kept with 50% agreeing the verges and pavements are in good order.
- 62% would be prepared to take part in an annual “Clean up the Parish” day.

However,

- 51% thought dog fouling was a problem and this was reflected in some forceful comments at the open meeting.

Lead Responsibility: Slimbridge Parish Council

Current Status:

More notices and “poop” bins required

Keep in contact with Stroud District Council Dog Wardens.

Slimbridge Parish Plan Project No: 4

Title: *Parish Communications*

Objective: Slimbridge is geographically dispersed and good communications are essential to maintaining a "Parish Community".

Theme: 12 Community

Evidence of need:

- 91% of households read the bimonthly newsletter funded by the Parish Council
 - Written comments reinforced the popularity of this two-sided publication
 - There were a few comments requesting more of a magazine style with longer articles
- Word of mouth (30%) and local press (20%) were the next most common sources
- Only 5% used the Parish website frequently
 - many were not aware of its existence until asked about it in the survey
 - 79% of households have a computer and 75% have broadband, so lack of use is not primarily an access problem.
- 62% would not use a Parish "Blog"

Lead Responsibility: Neil Howarth

Current Status:

Website

www.slimbridge.org.uk contains little information apart from Parish Council minutes and back copies of the newsletter, the facility to post notices relating to Parish Events had stopped working so there was no information on forthcoming events. This is now working again.

A member of the Parish volunteered to provide an improved website to demonstrate what could be done and to seek comments / improvement suggestions. With the approval of the Parish Council (who own the web address) the new and old websites are being integrated so that www.slimbridge.org.uk will be a source of up-to-date Parish events, information, and links to other websites of local interest.

As a temporary measure the new website can be seen at

www.slimbridgeparish.plus.com.

Newsletter and Magazine

The bimonthly magazine is very popular and provides a quick overview of the next two months of events in Slimbridge; it is distributed to every household and importantly serves the 19% of households who do not have a computer and those who prefer their information in printed form. It is concluded that the Newsletter should continue to be supported and continue to be funded by Slimbridge Parish Council.

A longer magazine type of publication would cost more to produce and would require a subscription to support it. Such a magazine does already exist in the form of the Church magazine "Trinate" serving the Parishes of Sharpness, Purton and Slimbridge. While this (obviously) contains information about the religious events of the Parishes it does also contain longer articles of general interest, information about forthcoming events and a few advertisements for services. The Vicar, Revd. Bill Boon, is happy to include information / articles submitted to him on bill.boon@tiscali.co.uk. The magazine costs 50p/issue or £5 for an annual subscription payable to Brenda Meredith on 899238.

Promoting the Parish Magazine will also increase awareness of events taking place at Slimbridge Church: 16% of households felt the Parish could make better use of the Church.

With the existence of the Newsletter and Parish Magazine there is no case for a third printed Parish communication.

Slimbridge Parish Plan Project No: 5

Title: Road Safety, Traffic Speed and Parking

Objective: Improve safety around our roads

Theme: 10 Roads and Traffic

Evidence of need:

- 70% consider parking a problem and 68% consider speed is a problem. The areas most commented on were:

	Parking	Speeding
School	60%	41%
Village Hall	32%	29%
Patch	23%	12%
A38 / Cambridge	8%	20%

Analysis of accident data for Slimbridge Parish from 1st January 2005 to the summer of 2010 revealed the following:

M5 There were 15 accidents, all of which resulted in only slight injuries.

A38 There were 8 accidents of which one resulted in fatalities and another in a serious injury.

Other Roads There were 8 accidents, all of which resulted in only slight injuries: one involved a pedestrian and two involved cyclists.

Statistically the areas attracting the most comments are not the most dangerous. However, this is not a cause for complacency and there is a particular risk to children in the road at school start/finish and to pedestrians in the area of the Village Hall.

Parking outside the school at start/end of the school day is a visible problem causing congestion and traffic backing up (sometimes to the roundabout). There was heated discussion at the open meeting between those who felt children/parents should walk and necessary parking should be in the British Legion car park, and those who felt it appropriate to park where it was legally permitted. This is not simply a traffic congestion problem, not all children get in and out of vehicles on the pavement side. There was also discussion at the open meeting about the size and speed of farm vehicles travelling through the Village.

Lead Responsibility: Slimbridge Parish Council

Current Status: This has been a hot topic for a number of years. Available information and status summarised below. There are 3 road types to consider:

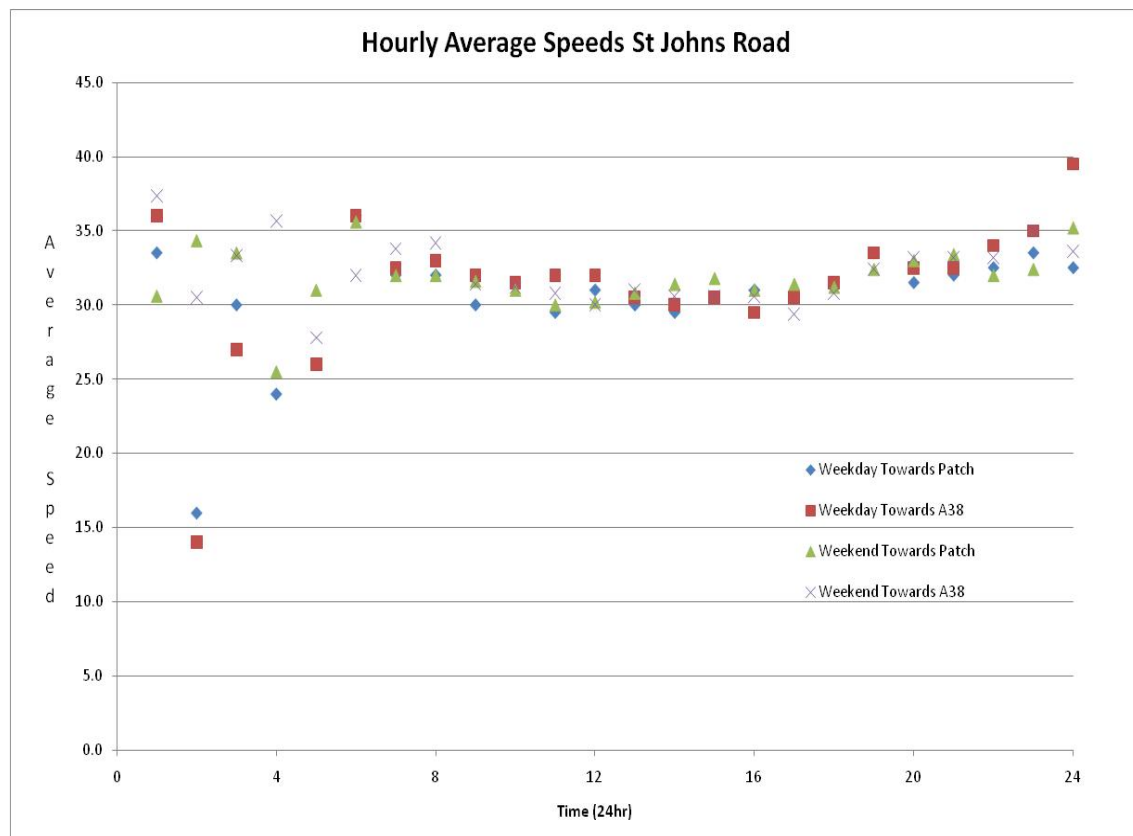
1. A38. Main trunk route. Problems of noise, dust/dirt, vibration etc. Has been mostly resurfaced since the survey. Accident statistics show the A38 is the most dangerous.
2. Minor roads. Mostly an issue of poor road surfaces. Resurfacing to be carried out as funds allow.
3. Main road through the Village down to the WWT. This attracted the most comment and is considered in more detail below.

St John's Road to WWT

Traffic survey results are available for 2 locations:

2006 Newlands Road (near the Patch) showed an average daily flow of 691 vehicles/day during weekdays September to December. This seems very low, but is outside peak visiting season (and peak days of Saturday and Sunday) to the Canal and WWT.

2009 St Johns Road in early November. Again outside the peak visitor season, but showed a daily average of about 2,300 vehicles/day. Average speed was 31.2mph with the 85 percentile at 36.4mph. There was relatively little variation in average speed by time of day or by weekday/weekend.



The following actions should be considered:

- Carry out a traffic survey during the visitor season. Demonstration of higher road usage would support road safety improvements,
- Review Slimbridge School Travel Plan with the following objectives:
 - remind parents of the dangers of parking outside school, and the benefits of either walking or parking at the Royal British Legion
 - consider a “stop and drop” policy where cars are stopped for the minimum time required.
 - remind parents of the importance of ensuring children get out of vehicles on the footpath side of the vehicle
 - review whether parking on the “wrong” side of the road (i.e. facing the roundabout) would be safer. It would avoid the driver having to open their door in the path of traffic, but would mean crossing the traffic flow
- Improve the sign to the Village Hall Car Park, and (again) remind users of the Village Hall of the dangers of parking on St Johns Road.
- Slimbridge WWT is one of Gloucestershire’s largest visitor attractions, yet is approached by a single narrow road. The narrow road and traffic levels make it too dangerous to walk from the Village to the Patch / Canal / WWT. Consider the possibility of creating a footpath to bypass the narrowest of sections.
- Investigate ways of reducing vehicle traffic to the WWT, for example “park and ride” from Cam and Dursley railway station (which, in any case, requires an expansion of parking spaces).
- Although not a direct contributor to any of the accidents involving cyclists, the A38 cycle lanes do nothing to improve the cycling experience; they are too narrow and do not separate cyclists from heavy traffic. As changes to the road layout take place, endeavour to create one single cycle lane which is wider and has better segregation from traffic.
- Continue to investigate the provision of better parking around in the Shepherds Patch Bridge area. Slimbridge Parish Council is already in discussion with British Waterways to resolve this parking problem.

Slimbridge Parish Plan Project No: 6

Title: *Improved Facilities at the Playing Field*

Objective:

- Increase utilisation of the playing fields.
- Increase the number of parishioners using the facilities

Theme: 3. Leisure or 14. Young people

Evidence of need:

20% of the survey respondents thought there could be better use of the Playing Fields

73% of households do not use the Playing Fields, yet

68% travel out of Slimbridge for their recreational activities

39% would use a fitness trail if one were available

Written responses to the Parish Survey and Young People's Survey provided a "wish list"

- jogging track with exercise stations
- zip wire
- skate park
- picnic benches
- mini golf
- tennis court

Lead Responsibility: David Thomas

Current Status:

The Slimbridge Playing Fields are well used, with 2010/11 usage being:

1) Slimbridge Youth Football Club

September 1st to April 30th

- 2 matches most Saturday mornings
- 1 match every Sunday morning
- 1 match most Sunday afternoons
- Training sessions every Sunday morning

August SYFC football tournament (all day on a Sunday)

2) Slimbridge Cricket Club

May 1st to August 31st

- 1 match every Saturday afternoon
- 1 match every Sunday afternoon
- Training or league matches every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday night
- 1 extra match on last Sunday in April
- 1 extra match on 1st or 2nd Sunday in September
- SCC cricket tournament August Bank Holiday weekend.

3) Slimbridge School – regular use during school hours only

4) Slimbridge Village Sports Day – 1 Saturday in June

5) Regular use by parishioners at other times (including children's playground)

6) Pavilion available to hire for children's parties etc. on weekdays in summer

The Playing Field Management Committee's current priority is to replace the broken children's roundabout.

Long term the Youth Football Team would like to develop an all weather training area which could incorporate a tennis court (see wish list).

The Playing Fields Management Committee and Parish Plan Team will work together to develop a long-term plan to make best use of the facility and deliver items based on the "wish list" in consultation with young people and the Community.

Slimbridge Parish Plan Project No: 7

Title: *Street Lighting*

Objective: Reduce electricity use, reduce light pollution, reduce costs.

Theme: 4 Environment

Evidence of need:

49% of survey respondents agreed street lights need not remain on all night
35% of survey respondents thought street lights should remain on all night.

Lead Responsibility: Slimbridge Parish Council

Current Status:

From November 2010 some lights have been switched off between midnight and 5am.
(see November Parish Newsletter)

Slimbridge Parish Plan Project No: 8

Title: *Waste Collection and Recycling*

Objective: Maintain / improve waste collection and recycling services

Theme: 4 Environment

Evidence of need:

90% of respondents agreed waste collection services are adequate, only 19% would be happy with fortnightly collections.

51% did not think an adequate range of material was collected for recycling.

58% would use a local facility for composting green garden waste

Lead Responsibility: Eric Jones

Current Status:

Collection of cardboard with recycling material would be well used.

The Tudor Arms Caravan Park has offered use of the Caravan Park recycling facilities. While a welcome offer, this would be of benefit to only a small proportion of parishioners.

Discussions with WWT Slimbridge were initially positive regarding the possibility of allowing parishioners to use WWT green waste composting facilities. Further discussions identified problems related to the possibility of contaminated material being left in the green waste recycling facility which could potentially harm the wildlife.

A solution has not yet been found and operation of the Bisley green waste recycling facility is being investigated to see what can be learnt. Bisley is part of an allotment scheme so much of the green waste is immediately to hand and members of the allotments are able to supervise the scheme.

Community Composting Network (CCN) is working with Gloucestershire County Council to try and increase community composting in our County. Gloucestershire, along with Cumbria, Norfolk and Suffolk have been chosen for this new project. Stroud District Council are very keen to follow up any leads and provide help and support for those interested in developing new community composting projects. An event was organised in Gloucester Guildhall on the 20th December 2010.

References

- Results of Parish Questionnaire
- 1 Slimbridge household – summary and notes
 - 2 Slimbridge data counts
 - 3 Slimbridge percentages
 - 4 Slimbridge youth – summary and notes
 - 5 Slimbridge youth – data counts
 - 6 Slimbridge youth - percentages
- Other Data Sources
- 7 1989 Slimbridge Village Appraisal
 - 8 2007 03 Severn Voice – Overall Summary Housing Report
 - 9 2009 09 08 Parish Plan Event
 - 10 2010 01 09 Notes of a Meeting with WWT Slimbridge
 - 11 2008 County Flow Report
 - 12 Slimbridge Parish_Accident_Plot
 - 13 Slimbridge Parish_Accident_Report
 - 14 Accident Types_Factors_Qualifiers
 - 15 TS3136 Traffic Volume Locations
 - 16 Location 9218 Traffic Volumes
 - 17 TS3136 Traffic Details
 - 18 TS2823_Summary Report
 - 19 St Johns Road Hourly Speeds from TS3136
 - 20 2010 10 08 Broadband Speed Results

Acknowledgements

This Parish and Community Plan was prepared on behalf of the Parishioners of Slimbridge by a Working Group including, Neil Howarth, Ian Hamilton, Eric Jones, David Thomas, Paul Smith and Judith Smith.

Angela Burlow and Marilyn Cox of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council deserve special thanks for all their enthusiasm, support and the time they spent attending the many evening working group meetings. They also provided invaluable guidance in sourcing statistics and providing computer analysis of the questionnaires completed by parishioners.

We also wish to thank all the other parishioners who gave their free time to distribute the questionnaires to each household and to arrange collection of the completed surveys. Also to all the Parish households who completed the survey that made this Parish Plan such a success.

Thank you to Helen Dunn, Clerk to the Slimbridge Parish Council, for her support and the information that she provided on Local Parish Associations and Groups.

Finally, thank you to the Slimbridge Parish Council whose commitment to the preparation of the Parish Plan and the implementation of the projects that have been prioritised by the parishioners will result in a better Parish for the future.