



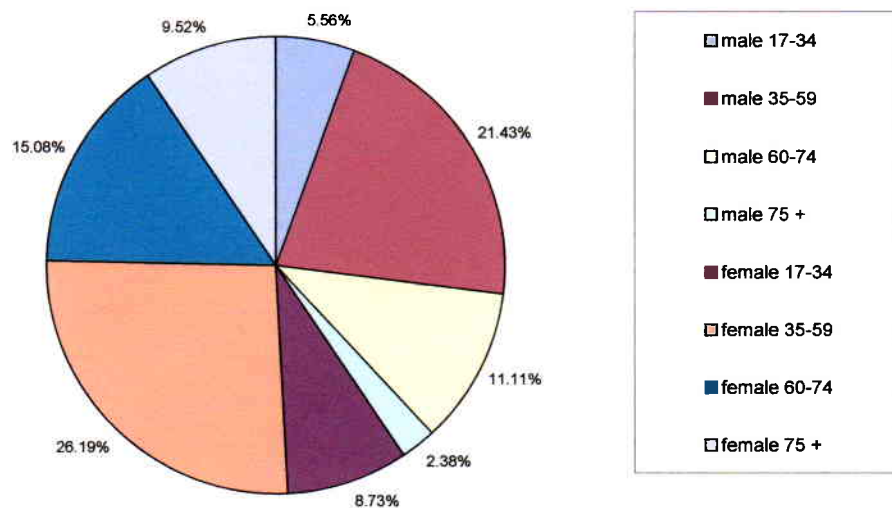
FILLEIGH PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

SUMMARY REPORT

1. Profile of Respondents

122 adult questionnaires were returned out of a total issued of approximately xxx representing the views of 126 people. 25 responses were received from young people 19 and under. The profile of adult respondents was as follows:

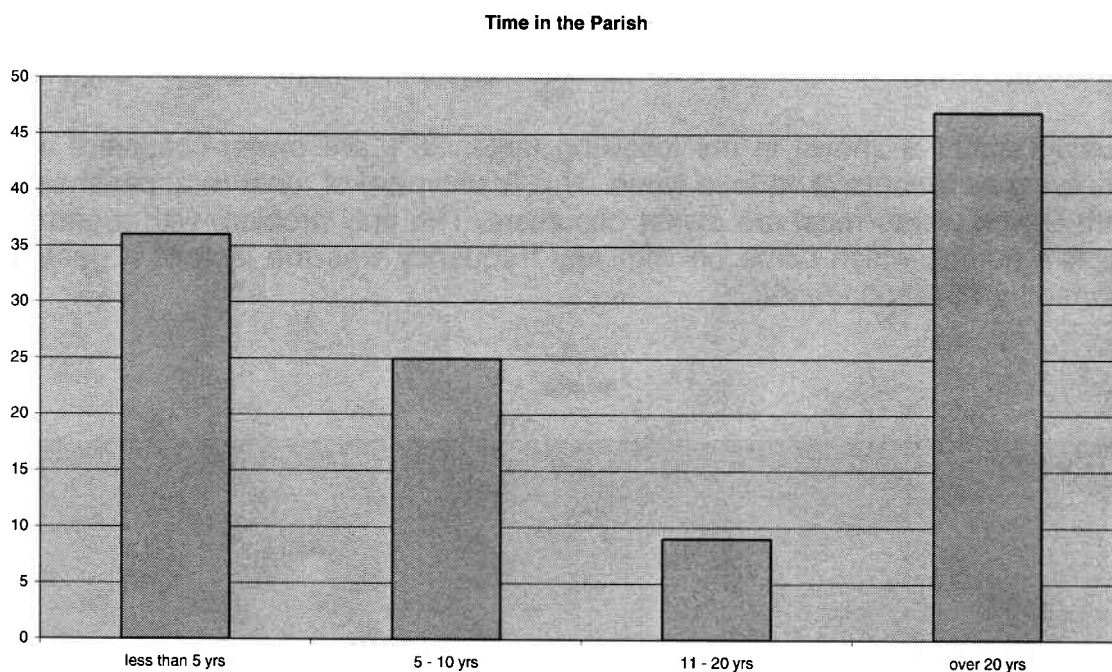
Age and Gender of Respondents



The age profile of respondents compared with population data from the FHSA 2001 is as follows:

FHSA	Total	19 & under	20-34	35-59	60-74	75+
2001	285	82	42	107	33	21
Questionnaire	Total	19 & under	17-34	35-59	60-74	75+
2005	151	25	18	60	33	15

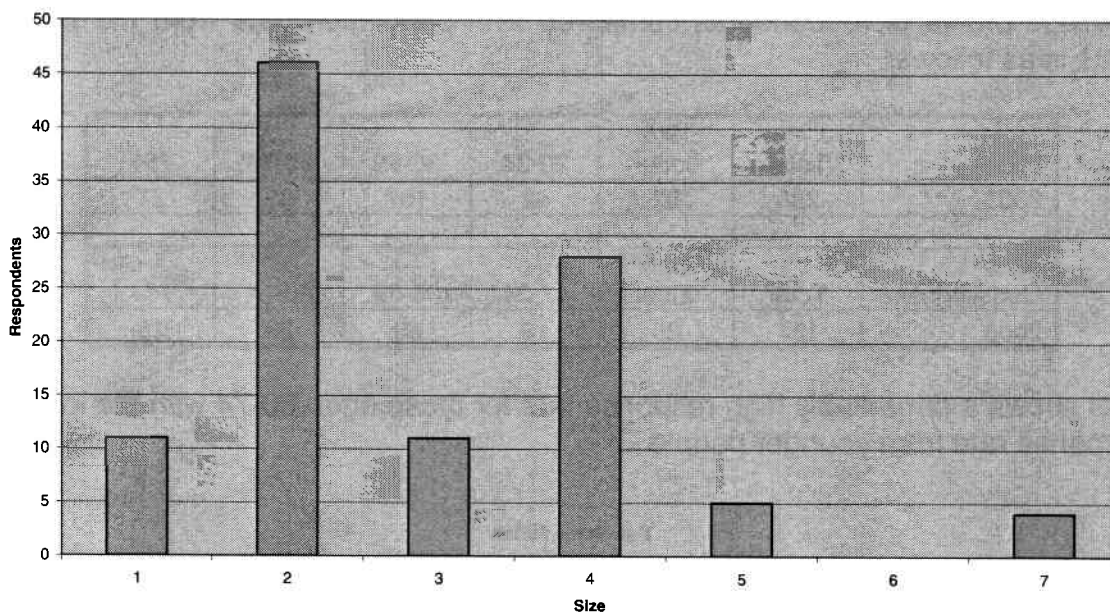
This shows a remarkably high response rate for those aged 60-74 with the lowest response rate from younger people.



Over 40% have lived in the parish for 20 years or more, but just under 31% have lived in the Parish for 5 years or less.

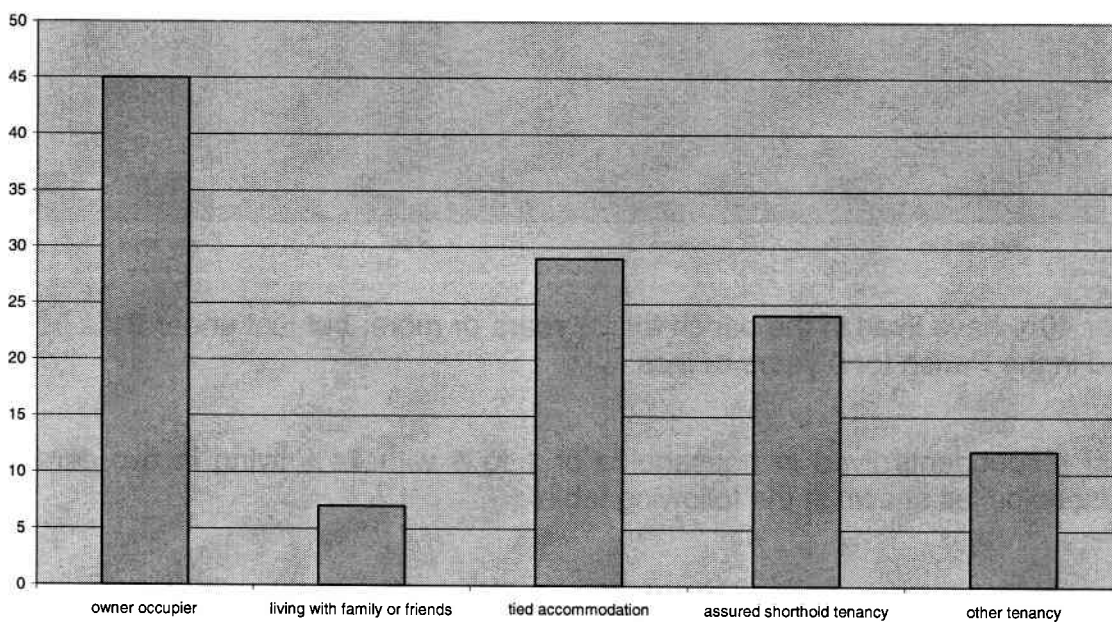
Most respondents lived in households of 1 to 4 with 44% living in two-person households, as shown in the following table.

Household Size

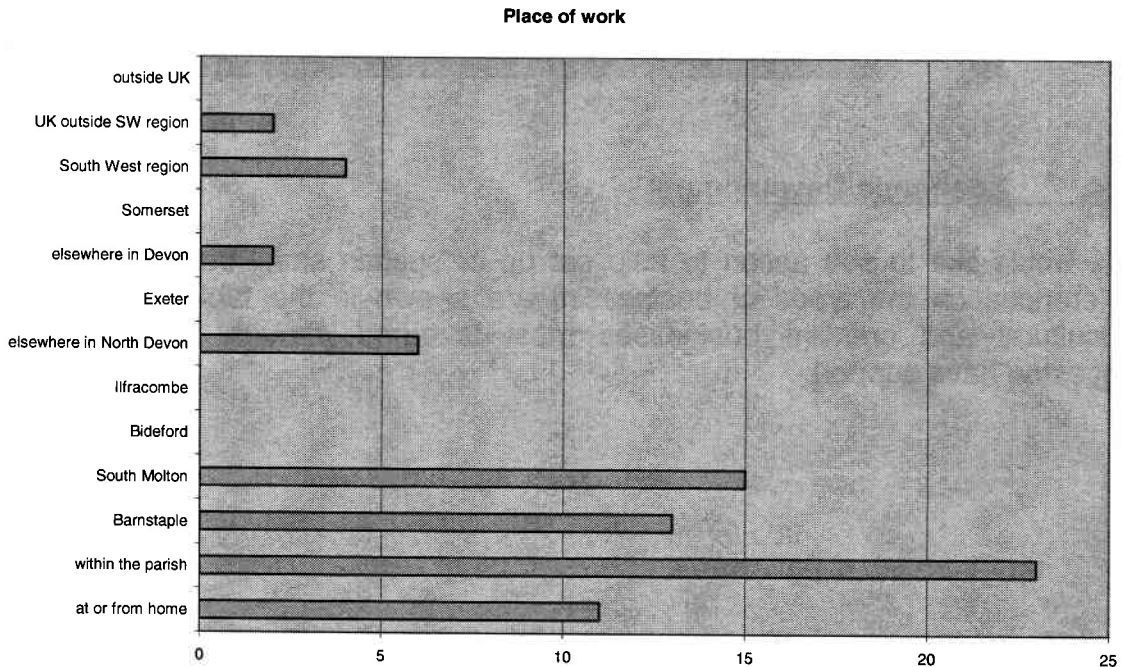
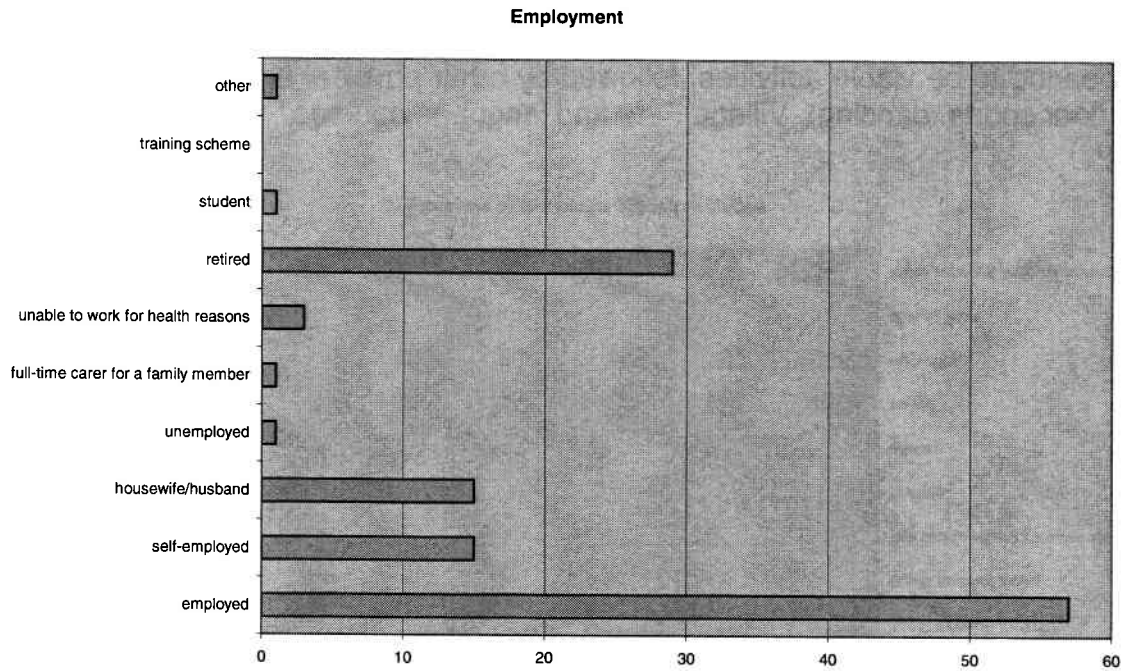


Housing status is shown in the following table. 38% are owner-occupiers with 56% living as tenants of various types. This is untypical of most rural parishes in North Devon where most are owner occupiers. The only problem with regard to people's homes which came up with any frequency was the lack of a garage, reported by 15 respondents.

Housing



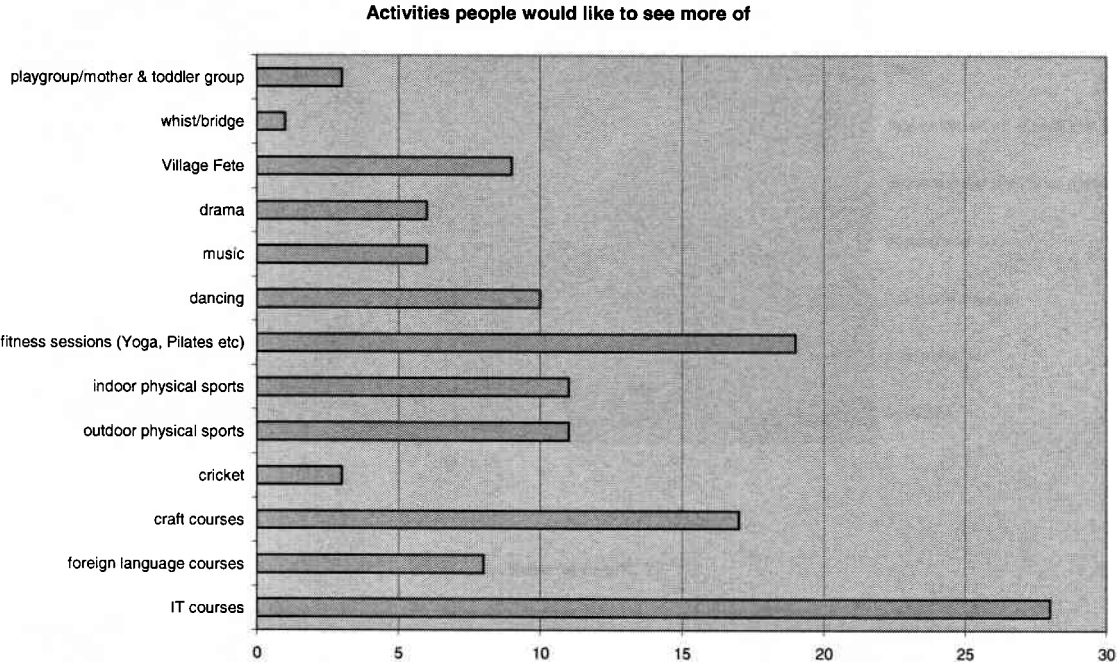
2. Employment



Employed followed by retired were the most common responses on employment status, with over 81% working within the Parish, Barnstaple or South Molton.

3. Participation

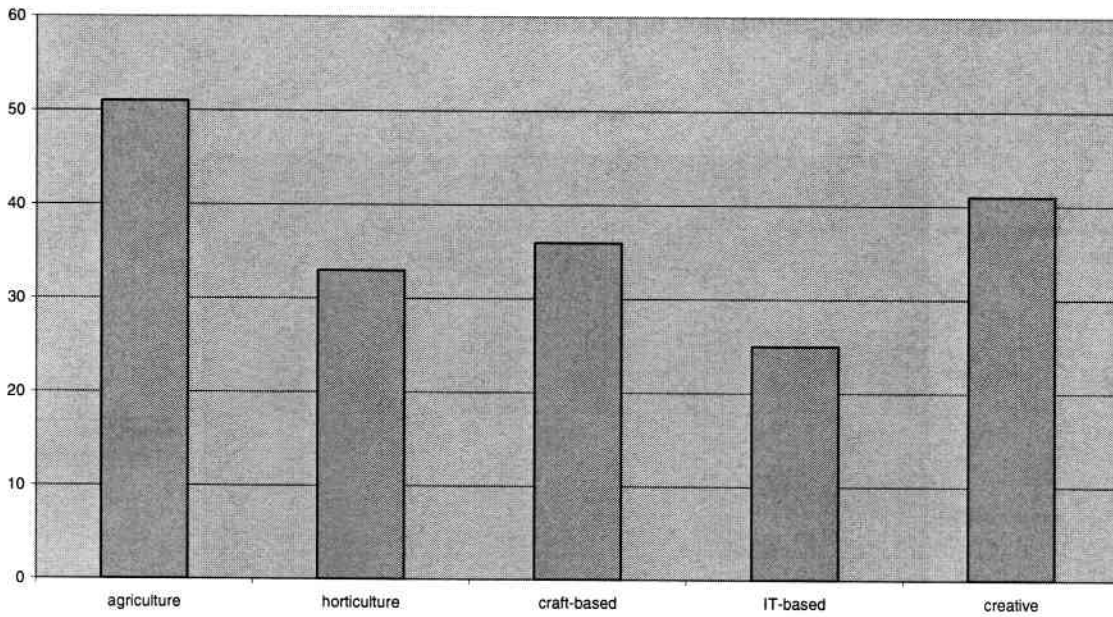
80%, 42% and 36% respectively participated in Parish events, events in other parishes and Church/Chapel activities. The activities people would like to see more of are shown in the next table, with IT, fitness sessions and craft courses all appearing to be viable activities, followed by other physical activities (indoor and outdoor sports, dancing), Village Fete and language courses.



4. Economic Development

77% would like to see action to help set up or sustain small businesses. The preferences on the types of businesses are shown in the table below, with agricultural and creative businesses most favoured, though all categories suggested have support.

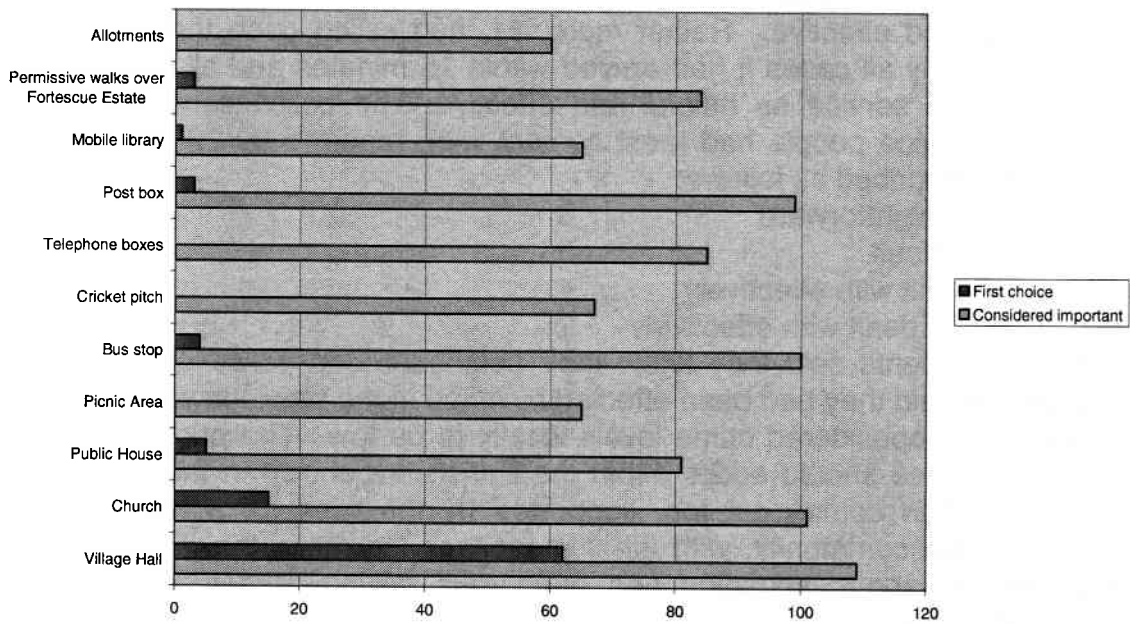
Businesses to be supported



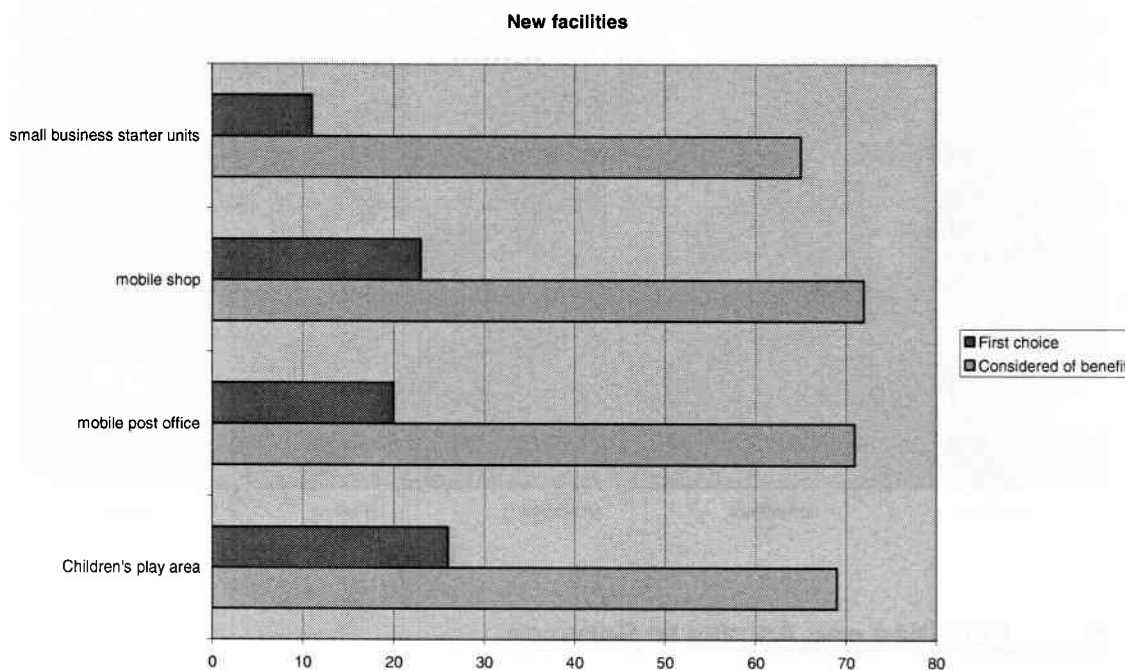
5. Facilities and Access to Services

The facilities which people regard as being most important to the village are shown in the following table:

Importance of Parish facilities



The Village Hall is clearly the most important facility, followed by the Church, though all the facilities listed are clearly of value to respondents. Similarly, all the additional facilities suggested are supported as below.

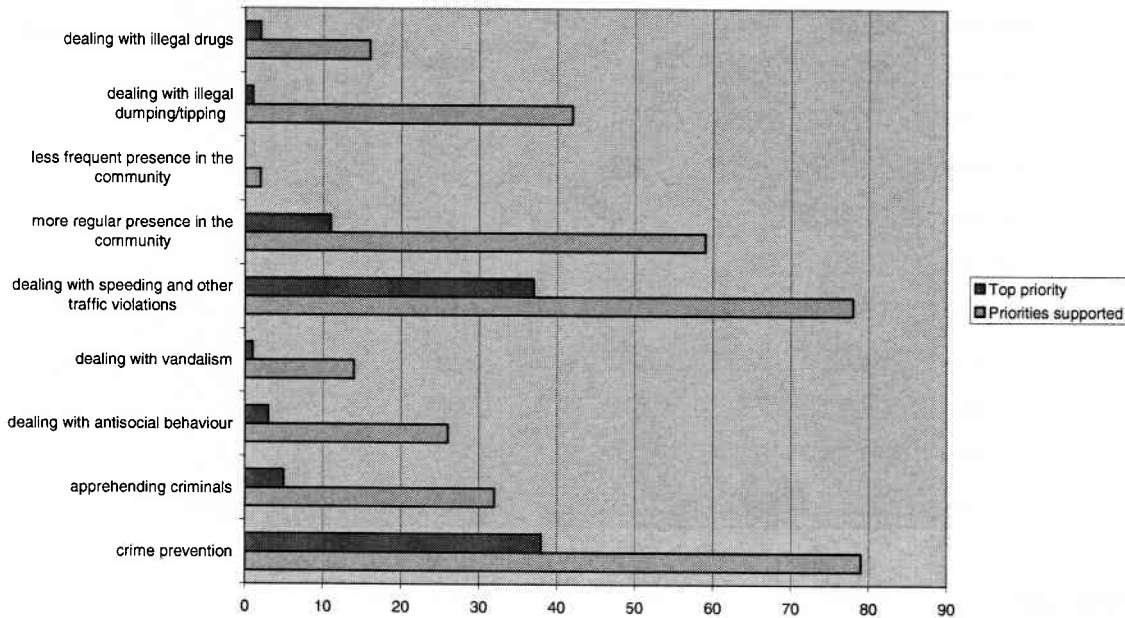


25% reported that they did most of their shopping in local shops and 75% in supermarkets. Only 2 respondents had used the fire service in the previous 12 months and the only response about its effectiveness was that the service had been helpful and effective. Rather more, 11, had called upon the ambulance service. In nearly all cases it had arrived within 15 minutes and all respondents categorised the service as helpful and effective. The police service was the emergency service people had most contact with, reported by 22 people. The contact was described as follows:

- straightforward 8
- difficult 8
- dealt with effectively 4
- not dealt with effectively 2

Only 18 respondents said they knew their neighbourhood police officer (16%), only 2 people said they had been affected by crime in the previous year and 96% of respondents considered crime levels locally to be low. The priorities people thought the police should adopt within the Parish are shown in the next table. Crime prevention comes out top, supported by the wish for a more regular presence in the community, with other responses indicating the issues people are concerned about: speeding and dangerous driving, illegal dumping and tipping, anti-social behaviour, vandalism and drugs.

Policing priorities in the Parish



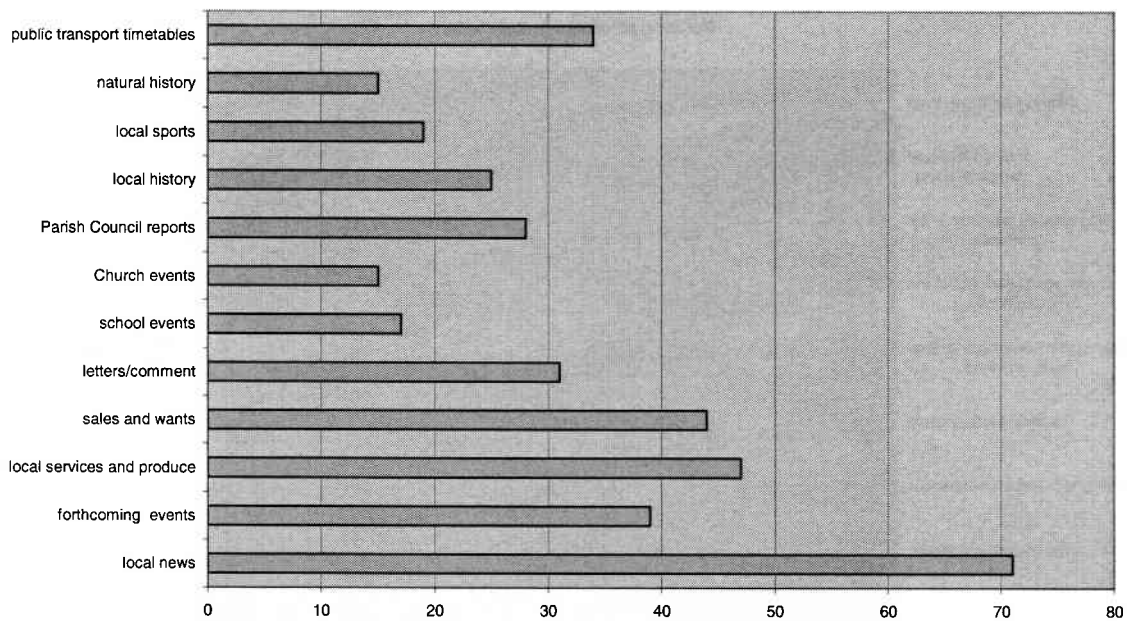
6. Local Government

45% knew their county councillor, 40% their district councillor and 83% their parish councillors. Most felt their Parish council was good at communicating its decisions (62%), representing community views (65%) and addressing local concerns (71%).

7. Local Media

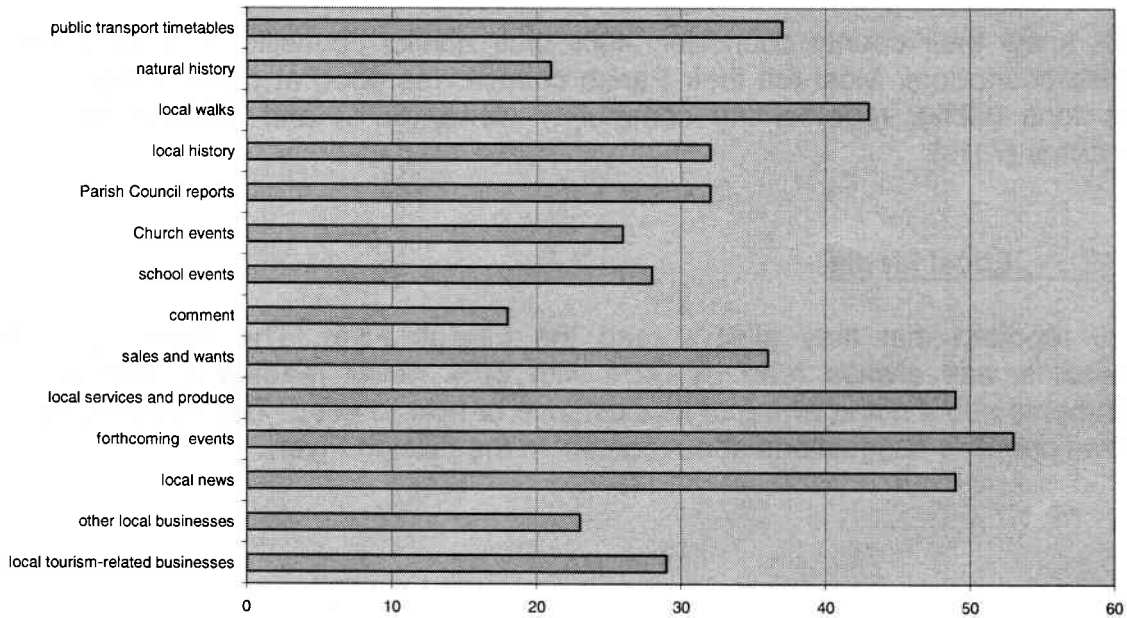
81% reported that they always read the Filleigh Flyer. The Parish Church magazine was always read by 32% with 50% never reading it, with some comments about not knowing of its existence or how to get it. The following table shows people's suggestions about content in the Filleigh Flyer.

Filleigh Flyer content



Under 29% had visited the Filleigh village hall website and the suggestions for content appear below.

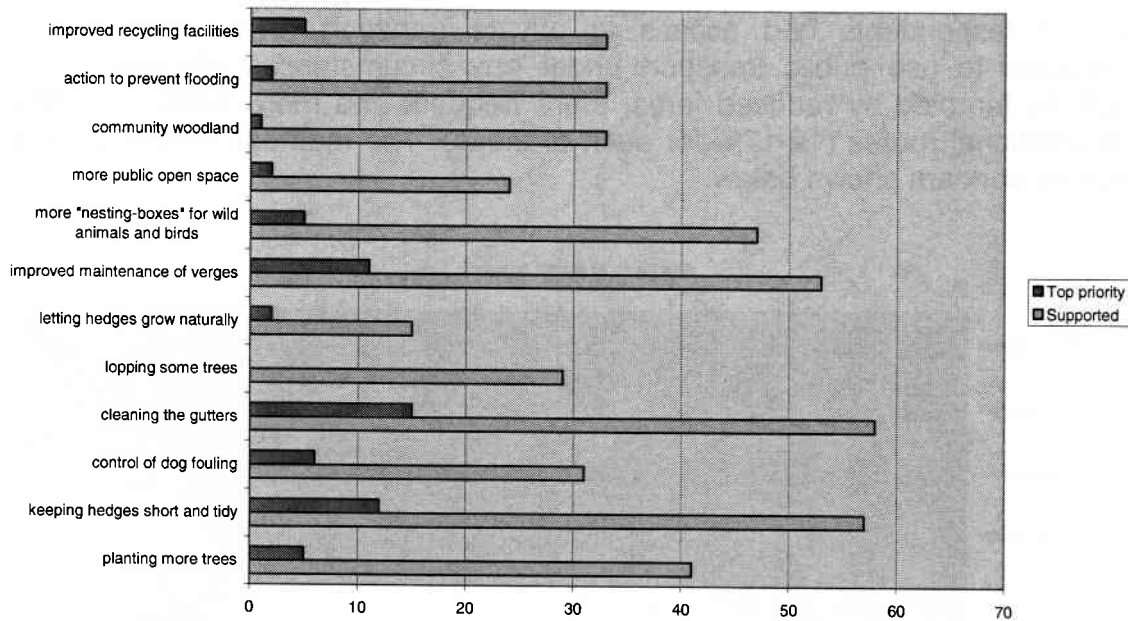
Village Hall Website



8. Environment

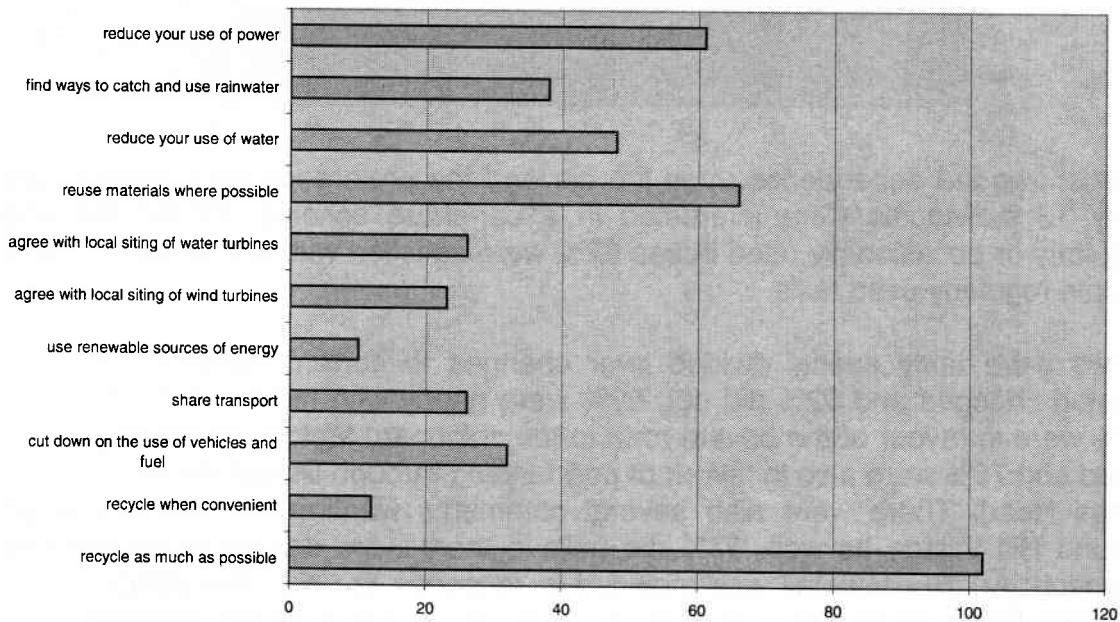
95% considered the Parish was tidy. Actions to enhance the environment were supported as in the table below.

Improving the appearance of the Parish



Actions people were taking to help the environment were as follows.

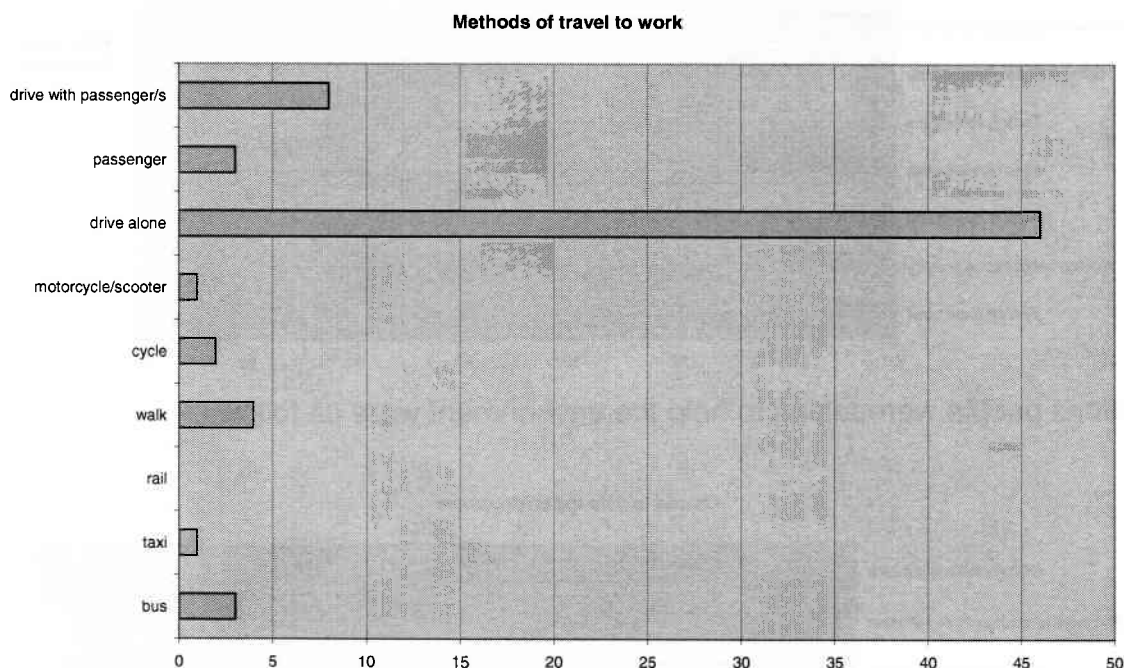
Actions to help the environment



There were only 45 responses on barriers to action, the most common being inconvenience (14) and lack of knowledge (11). The only significant responses on actions people would not be willing to do were 40 against the local siting of wind turbines and 15 against local siting of water turbines.

9. Roads and Local Public Transport

94% of respondents had access to private transport. 31% could not be persuaded to use public transport under any circumstances whereas others might be tempted by reduced fares, more frequent and more reliable services and additional routes (12-17% for each of these). The methods people used to travel to work are shown below.



This shows the dependence upon the car and the preference for solitary travel. Only 13 individuals were interested in a car-share scheme. Of the 60 who regularly or occasionally used buses 82% were satisfied with the service. Only 4 people regularly used taxis.

Views were fairly evenly divided over changes to current speed limits: 48% wanted changes and 52% did not. 89% were happy with road and street signs. 90% were in favour of the private road to the chipboard factory by-passing Stags Head and 76% were also in favour of part funding through limited development at Stags Head. There were also several comments wanting the by-pass to go around Hill Village as well. 67% did believe there were danger spots needing attention. Additional detail was provided in response to Q52. The danger spots included Stags Head, the bends on the road through the village, Heddon, near the school, the road to the chipboard factory, Rectory Close and Park Lane. Dangers related to speeds, blockages, poor visibility, poor signage and poor maintenance.

10. Footpaths and Bridleways

40% of respondents used footpaths and bridleways fairly regularly, at least monthly, 47% only occasionally and 13% never. 78% of respondents considered these to be well signposted and 80% in good order. 57% thought there should be more.

11. Housing Needs

7 respondents were currently looking for accommodation in the Parish and 20 thought they were likely to do so in the next 5 years. Only 2 were on the council's housing register. The most likely size of house to be needed was 3-bedroomed with the range needed being 2 to 5 bedrooms.

In terms of additional housing there was most support for small affordable homes (37%) and medium sized family homes (23%) with 15% believing that no additional housing was required or desirable. 93% wanted new homes to be prioritised for local people. 73% thought that building more homes was a good idea if it helped provide or sustain more facilities in the Parish and 82% supported new affordable housing tailored to meet the Parish's needs. All three methods of occupancy (Q.68) were supported fairly evenly.

Only 11 respondents reported any disabilities, most commonly related to age or physical disability. All could be supported through adaptations to or additional services in their current homes.

12. Summary of responses to Q71 not covered elsewhere above

There were several comments about the beauty of the area and how happy many people were to live there. Some wanted there to be no change whilst others recognised that there is always change of some sort. There were more comments on speeding and traffic dangers, mainly wanting reduced limits (on speed and HGV movements), possible traffic calming measures and better enforcement of speed and other traffic laws. There were also some concerns about mud and litter. New housing was supported for the young people of the parish, though it needed to be in sympathy with the local styles and surroundings. There were requests for a local shop or mobile shop, signs at either end of Hill Village and suggestions about possible uses for the old mill buildings.

13. Young People

Of the 25 respondents, 2 were under 5, 10 were 5-9, 9 were 10-14 and 4 were 15-19. 23 wanted to see improved facilities for young people in the village. Of

the 11 schools and colleges mentioned, most, 18, had attended or were attending Filleigh Primary School and 7 were or had been at South Molton Community College. Travel to school was on foot (12), by family car (12), by bus (7) and by bike (3). 78% were happy with public and school transport. 21 respondents (91%) indicated they would like to live in the Parish when they finished their education. Although this figure is likely to drop as the years go by, it has some relevance to future housing needs.

Young people suggested a range of additional facilities such as a shop, park or play area with somewhere for outdoor sports including skateboarding, and clubs/activities possibly at the village hall such as modern dance, live music and broadband internet access. The old mill was proposed by one respondent as a perfect livery yard.

ACTIONS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

1. Discuss with potential providers additional local opportunities for people to undertake IT courses, fitness sessions and craft courses.
2. Consider how to respond to the wish to help set up and sustain local businesses. This is likely to involve discussion with the District Council and business support organisations such as the ND Enterprise Agency.
3. Consider how to proceed with regard to the support indicated for a children's play area, mobile shop/post-office and business starter units (links to action 2 above).
4. Liaise with the police service on priorities and concerns expressed relating to crime prevention, road traffic law enforcement, dumping, anti-social behaviour, vandalism and drugs. Support the police in actions to raise the profile of the neighbourhood police officer.
5. Recommend to the production team of the Parish Church Magazine some local publicity on how to obtain it.
6. Report to the production team of the Filleigh Flyer on the content people are interested in.
7. Report to the production team of the Village Hall website the content people would like to see included.
8. It is also recommended that the Filleigh Flyer and Village Hall website are encouraged to co-ordinate content and share effort wherever appropriate in making any changes.
9. Determine action on the improvements to the appearance of the village supported by respondents, particularly gutter-cleaning, hedge trimming, verge maintenance and nesting boxes for wild animals.
10. Consider whether some local information – literature or meetings – should be provided on good environmental practices.
11. Whilst there is no mandate to change current speed limits, a number of specific concerns have been raised which need to be considered and any proposals for action put forward for further consultation.
12. Similarly there are a number of danger spots identified in response to Q52 which should be reviewed and prioritised for action.

13. In discussion with the police and other authorities determine what can be done to improve the enforcement of speed limits, which may involve traffic calming, cameras, warning lights and speed traps.
14. There is support to proceed with the idea of a private road to the chipboard factory, if necessary part-funded by housing development at Stags Head, though there would need to be further consultation on the detail of both proposals.
15. There is support for additional footpaths. This would seem to be particularly appropriate if it can deal with danger spots by separating vehicular and human (and animal) movements between the main centres of the Parish.
16. Consider what action is appropriate to respond to the support for limited and sympathetically designed new housing in the Parish, especially to meet the needs of local young families.
17. If the request for signs marking Hill Village are generally supported this would seem to be a reasonable action to support.
18. Is it feasible to encourage the revival of the old mill in any/some of the ways suggested by some respondents?
19. Are any of the facilities young people are interested in possible, notably outdoor sports and play facilities (links to 3 above), and additional opportunities for music, dance and internet access?

The Parish council should now develop its plan for the parish incorporating priorities amongst these and any other appropriate actions, and consult further with the community about proposals.

Philip Done
January 2006